Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Should panhandling be prohibited in the CNMI?

Yes	136
No	37
No opinion	8

Sunday, July 1, 2012

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Europe's leaders surprised skeptics with a bold plan to pump cash into troubled banks, reduce borrowing costs for Italy and Spain and stop forcing austerity on every government that needs aid.

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WORLD

Islamist Mohammed Morsi became Egypt's first freely elected president on Saturday, launching his four-year term with a potentially dangerous quest to wrest back from the military the full authority of his office.

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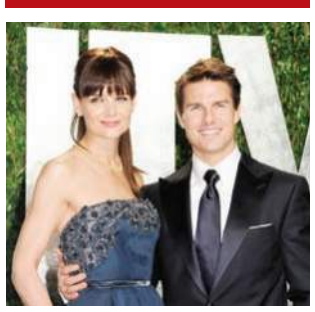
LIFE & STYLE



When Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes first got together, he jumped on a couch, she gushed girlishly, and many of their fans said, "Huh?"

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Korean group concludes visit honoring war dead. PAGE 3
Stronger push to legalize casinos as Saipan Air ceases operations. PAGE 4

Over 7.6K alien workers still without CW permits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

More than 7,600 foreign workers that CNMI employers continue to need for their businesses are still without approved Commonwealth-only worker petition as of June 26, even as the Fitial administration and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce are pushing for a five-year extension of the immigration federalization transition period ending Dec. 31, 2014 to still have access to skilled foreign labor to help run the local economy.

» USCIS data shows 35% approved so far

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts said on Saturday that from Oct. 7 through June 26, the California Service Center had data entered 5,763 I-129CW petitions.

The petitions were filed by approximately 1,803 different employers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

A total of 11,809 CW1 workers are sponsored on these petitions.

See WORKERS on Page 4

Former chief justice Demapan passes away

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Demapan

Former CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Miguel S. Demapan passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saturday afternoon. He was 59.

Demapan, who had undergone surgeries in his battle against colon cancer, was rushed to CHC on Friday, relatives said.

The CNMI Judiciary said yesterday that the place and time of funeral services will be announced.

Citing health reasons, Demapan resigned from the Supreme Court on Sept. 30, 2011 where he served as chief justice since 1999 or for 12 years.

Demapan served the CNMI Judiciary for almost two decades. He was Supreme Court associate justice in 1998 to 1999 and a Superior Court associate judge in 1992 to 1998.

See DEMAPAN on Page 4

MMC halts service to Medicaid patients

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas Medical Center announced yesterday that it will temporarily stop service to patients who are using Medicaid due to the government's nonpayment of reimbursement.

» Three clinics to follow suit

Joy Sanchez, Marianas Medical Center office manager, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* the company's decision. She said an announcement stopping their service to Medicaid holder has been posted since yesterday at the facility's entrance.

MMC advised the affected patients that suspension of their service takes effect today, July 2, and apologized for the temporary interruption of service.

In the same announcement, MMC said if Medicaid patients want to avail of service, they will be required a self-pay by the company.

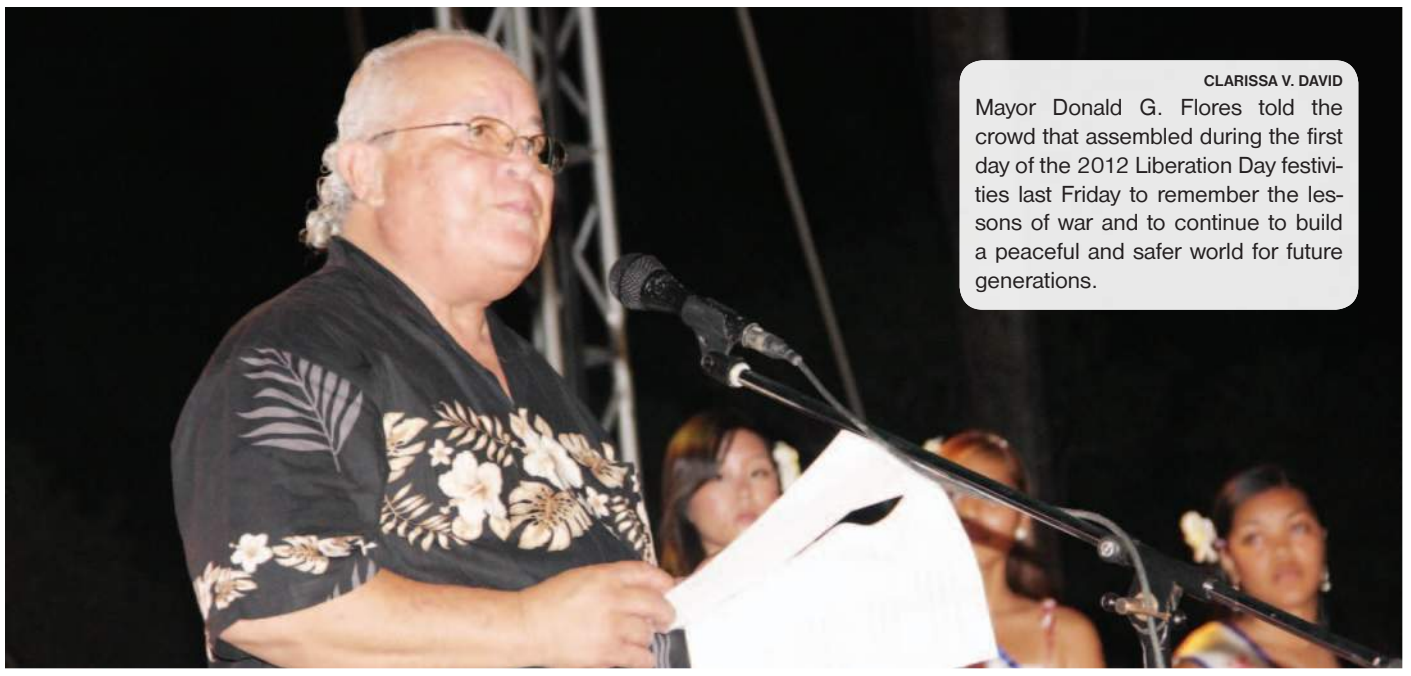
According to Sanchez, ser-

See MMC on Page 4

STARTING HIM YOUNG HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sitting comfortably among new and used children's books, Orvyn De Guzman, 1 year and 9 months old, picks up a book for sale during the continuation of Calvary Christian Academy's yard sale on Saturday morning. Calvary Christian Academy closes down after 30 years of providing good education to thousands of students on Saipan, as a result of the island's harsh economic conditions that led to the past few years' drop in enrollment. The school sale will run through July 3, but this may be extended.

Local



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Mayor Donald G. Flores told the crowd that assembled during the first day of the 2012 Liberation Day festivities last Friday to remember the lessons of war and to continue to build a peaceful and safer world for future generations.

AS LIBERATION DAY FESTIVITIES START

Flores: Hold high purpose of freedom

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The 2012 Liberation Day festivities fired up Friday night with calls to remember the real meaning of the event—to remember the lessons of war and conflict 68 years ago and to continue building a peaceful and safer world for future generations.

Mayor Donald G. Flores, in his opening remarks, said those who lived during the war experienced fear, sorrow, and uncertainty on what the future held for them, leaving them with scars that turned to hope when Camp Susupe was finally liberated from its captors.

"We pray that, despite all the hurt and losses, we are here today, safe and free, and that we have a purpose. We must hold high the purpose of freedom, for it gives meaning to everything we value, cherish, honor, that we are one people with the same rights—the rights to live and be free," Flores told hundreds of community members who took part in Friday's opening ceremony at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The event began with the posting of colors by the Marianas High School JROTC color guard, followed by the invocation led by Fr. Celso G. Magbanua, Jr. The award-winning Umang Glee Club led the singing of the national anthems.

Flores reminded his audience to keep this year's Liberation Day celebration alcohol and smoke-free and thanked all sponsors and partners that help make the event possible.

"We start a new way of celebrating July 4th: eat healthy, drink healthy, and celebrate alcohol and smoke-free," he added.

Friday's ceremony also introduced the Liberation Royal Court candidates who were all dressed up in a white island dresses with red hibiscus flowers prints.

Carmelyn T. Agulto, Loria Dee A. Hocog, Maria Angelica B. Malasarte, Lydee Rose S. Pangelinan, and Susanne Park waved to the crowd as they were introduced one by one on stage. The girls' sponsors are Kevin's Corp., Trench Tech, Handbags, etc., United Filipino Organization, Northern Marianas Business Process, Konbetsa Café, Walk-in Closet, and P&A Corp.

Coronation night for the five Liberation candidates will be held tonight.

The public enjoyed live performances during the opening event, which were provided by Pua Hinano, Favor Mission Group, Saipan Music & Dance, Pyrrhic Victory, Tinaktak Dancers, and Underground.

The 2012 Liberation Day festivities will culminate on Wednesday, July 4 with the traditional parade and program that will begin at 10am at the National Office Supply and end at the festival grounds.

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Korean group concludes visit honoring war dead

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Twenty-five members of the Memorial Service Association for the Deceased Compatriots Overseas from Korea were on island last week for their 35th annual memorial service honoring Koreans who died in the Northern Marianas during World War II.

The group, led by president Yong Taek Lee, arrived early Friday morning and flew out to Tinian to conduct memorial service there.

They came back on the same day and in time for a dinner reception hosted by former Korean Association of Saipan president Tony Lim at the Saipan World Resort Lilac Room at 6:30pm last June 29.

Island leaders joined the group at the event, including Mayor Donald G. Flores; associate judge David Wiseman; Reps. Sylvestre Iguel and Joseph Palacios; Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan; Laolao Bay Golf & Resort president Sang Ho Boo, vice presidents Tetsuya Matsunaya and Sang Joon Kang, and chief accountant Sun Wook Kim; World Resort president Jong Tae Park and sales director Juko Ishigawa; Asiana Airlines general manager Sung Nam Park, Korean Women's Association president Sung Gum Lee; and Korean Athletic Association president Tae Young Han.

Association president Lee, who started the memorial service upon assuming his post 35 years ago, said in his native tongue and translated by P&A's Walter Yu at Friday night's reception that the memorial service is a meaningful event for those who are still around to commemorate those who have passed away.

Lee, who also served in the 11th and 12th legislature of South Korea and the Republic of Korea Army, said the event also aims to stop violence and war in the world and to live in peace altogether since all mankind are brothers regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.

During the reception, Flores presented Lee with a certificate of recognition and appreciation for the association's desire to come back to the CNMI and pray for the souls of their compatriots for their sacrifices.

On June 30 at 11am, the association held a one-hour memorial service at the Korean War Memorial Monument in Marpi, where the visiting group was joined by other officials, including Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Korean Guam Consul General Hyun Soo Park, and Korean Association of Saipan vice president Jae Yeol Lim.

Saturday's service began with the offering of flowers and the Pledge of Allegiance to Korea. Eulogy was delivered by president Youn Tong Chung of the Citizens Assembly of Kyoung-book and Daegu and Daegu University board member Kunyong Rhee.

In his remarks, consul general Park urged the audience to keep in their minds the importance of peace and liberty and wished all of them good luck and good health.

For his part, Flores said that the memorial monument is a reminder to everyone that the war is costly both economically and emotionally, and called on everyone to "lead a life of respect" to one another despite differences in culture and religion.

The group concluded the memorial service with the incense burning.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Some 25 members of the Memorial Service Association for the Deceased Compatriots Overseas pose with Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores last Saturday at the Korean War Memorial Monument in Marpi.

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Stronger push to legalize casinos as Saipan Air ceases operations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Now that Saipan Air ceased its operations and dashed the CNMI's hopes for economic recovery starting this year, pro-casino proponents said there's a need to push more strongly an ongoing signature petition to put the question of legalizing casino gaming on Saipan on the Nov. 6 ballot to help save the local economy from collapsing altogether.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said while Saipan casinos won't result in "immediate" cash infusion to the CNMI economy the way Saipan Air could have done, Saipan casinos could generate new money that the CNMI does not currently have.

"Casino is one way to help our economy. It's better than nothing at all. I don't see any other plan. Saipan Air would have been the new major driver of the economy but like I said earlier, it's understandable why Saipan Air made the decision. It's beyond their control," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune.*

Tan Holdings announced on Friday that Saipan Air was ceasing its operations effective immediately after its supposed partner, Swift Air LLC, reneged on its promise to deliver an aircraft a week before the airline's planned July 1 inaugural flight. Swift Air filed for bankruptcy, despite receiving wire transfers of over $1.2 million from Saipan Air.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said he hopes more people will now support legalizing casinos on Saipan because it is a "viable source of revenue," considering that Saipan Air has been removed from the economic recovery equation.

"I hope people will sign the casino petition. I don't see any other option as good as Saipan casino," he said.

Dr. Jack Angello, one of the movers of the Saipan casino petition, said they are now pressed for time to gather 2,590 signatures to place the casino question on the ballot. He said they will submit the signatures to the Office of the Attorney Genera on July 9, a Monday.

The 2,590 signatures represent 20 percent of the 12,948 registered voters on Saipan.

As of mid-June, the signatures gathered and submitted to the Office of the Attorney General totaled only 497—way below the required 2,590.

"Basically we have only a week. We will be actively working on getting community members to sign the petition," he said, adding that their estimate is that they have already 1,500 signatures but most of the packets are still with volunteers so they wouldn't know for sure.

Besides Angello, the others that are leading the casino signature petition are Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Basa, and former House speaker Pedro "Paduna" Deleon Guerrero.

"This is for the benefit of the economy. If people are really concerned about the economy, the Retirement Fund, medical referral, education and other public services, then they should give Saipan casinos a chance," Angello said.

Angello said for those who want to sign the petition, they should contact him, Torres, Ogumoro, Basa, or Deleon Guerrero. A petition signing event may be scheduled this week to get more signatures.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) also urged Saipan voters to sign the casino petition so that the question will be placed on the ballot.

He said the voters should be the one to decide on this issue. The Senate killed twice House proposals to legalize Saipan casino gaming through legislation. Senators said it should be done through constitutional amendment.

Moreover, the Fitial administration continues to analyze budget figures so see whether it could revise its fiscal year 2013 budget of $102 million.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said on any form of budget revision could come as early as today.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the administration was already prepared to add $5 million to $7 million to the $102 million projected revenue for 2013, but Saipan Air's announcement of indefinite postponement—and later on cease of operations—changed the whole picture. The additional projected revenues from direct and indirect taxes related to Saipan Air's operations would have helped restore 80 work hours biweekly for most government employees.

MMC

From Page 1

vices to Medicaid patients will resume once payments are made by the government.

MMC is the second medical provider that stopped service to Medicaid patients following the announcement of PHI Pharmacy last week. PHI Pharmacy is the biggest pharmacy on Saipan. It suspended services to Medicaid patients due to the government's over $1 million in arrears.

Sanchez said MMC made the decision after failing to get reimbursement the past 11 months. She described the delayed reimbursement as a significant amount that if received in a timely manner could have help the company's operation.

MMAC shut down its outlet in San Antonio effective June 1. Majority of the clinic's patients in the area used Medicaid insurance.

Since its closure, the outlet's operation was consolidated with the company's clinic along Beach Road, resulting in the increase of Medicaid insurance patients in a daily basis. MMC accommodates 70-80 patients during peak hours daily. Majority of them are using Medicaid as insurance.

Sanchez disclosed that MMC started serving Medicaid patients in 2008. Since payment of reimbursement was delayed many months ago, she shared the negative impact it brought to their operation.

In an inquiry Friday at Brabu Pharmacy& Wellness Center, *Saipan Tribune* learned that service to Medicaid patients will also be stopped starting this week, also due to non-reimbursement from the government.

However, no final word from its owner, Peter Parker, was released yesterday to *Saipan Tribune* as promised.

Besides these providers, two other medical providers have expressed the same plan in the coming days.

A staff from the Pacific Medical Center told *Saipan Tribune* that although they still accept Medicaid patients, "the situation is only for now."

An employee of Saipan Health Clinic also disclosed the company's intention to stop service to Medicaid patients. The employee revealed that 80 percent of the clinic's patients are Medicaid holders.

According to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's adviser on Medicaid Program, Esther Muna, the delay in the reimbursement is a result of the government's severe cash flow problem.

"We want to pay the providers for providing the services to our clients. Unfortunately, the Medicaid program requires a 45 percent local match and with only a $2.4 million appropriation, it is difficult to pay the providers in a timely manner," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Muna said in the past six months, "we've been working diligently on finding solutions for funding the match and controlling the costs but these solutions cannot immediately solve the problem of the arrears dating back since 2010."

DEMAPAN

From Page 1

He is survived by his wife, Frances Tenorio Demapan, and five children.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended their condolences to Frances T. Demapan, the children, and the entire family of the former Chief Justice.

Fitial and Inos in a press statement said as a former chief justice, the late Demapan was tremendously instrumental in the vast improvements undertaken by the judicial branch.

"He was a true guardian of the law and a highly regarded jurist who always upheld honor and humility each time he wore the judicial robe," Fitial and Inos said.

"Through his devotion to family values, chief justice Demapan was a loving husband to Frances and an exemplary father to his children. We owe a debt of gratitude and a great deal of respect to his family for their support and love during his term on the bench."

Fitial and Inos said through his intellect and friendship, the late chief justice also enriched the lives of everyone at the courts and in the community.

"Chief justice Demapan's passing is a deep loss for the Commonwealth. He will be truly missed," Fitial and Inos said.

Upon learning of Demapan's passing, acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro said Demapan was an inspiration to all who came to know him.

"I was most proud to have served with him," said Castro in the Judiciary's press statement.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona said Demapan led the Commonwealth Judiciary during its most critical periods and managed to direct its course despite limited resources.

Director of courts Tracy M. Guerrero said it was an honor for her to work with chief justice Demapan.

"He has provided me with many opportunities for learning and growth, including nominating me for the 2010 Toll Fellows, for which I will be always grateful," Guerrero said.

In a statement during his resignation in September 2011, Demapan said he will always be proud of the Supreme Court and its accomplishments during his tenure.

Demapan said the record will reflect the work done to improve the Judiciary and their efforts to provide more access to the CNMI's justice system.

"I believe that no secular calling is higher than to sit in judgment over disputes brought by the people in their public courts for resolution…I hope that my tenure as chief justice has been worthy of the high standard set by my predecessors," he said.

Demapan, one of nine children, was born and raised on Saipan. He graduated as class valedictorian of Marianas High School in 1971.

Originally interested in pursuing a medical career, Demapan attended Seattle University in Washington under a Trust Territory Full Scholarship. He received his Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in chemistry in 1975.

He then earned a Masters in Business Administration with honors from Golden Gate University in San Francisco in 1983. He finally settled on a career in law after earning his Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University in California in 1985. In May 2005, he received a Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Guam.

According to the Judiciary, upon his return to Guam, Demapan embarked on a legal career, beginning as general counsel for J.S. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

Demapan then opened a solo private law practice. A few years later, the law offices of Demapan and Pedro Atalig were representing major business and local clients.

Demapan's other activities included:

- Chairman, Commonwealth Judicial Council
- Chairman, Commonwealth Law Revision Commission
- Chairman, Criminal Justice Planning Agency Supervisory Council
- Judge Pro Tem, Supreme Court and Superior Court of Guam
- President, Pacific Judicial Council (2000-2002) and (2008—present)
- Member, Conference of Chief Justices (U.S.A.)
- Board of Directors, U.S. Conference of Chief Justices (2002-2003)
- Chairman, Resolutions Committee, U.S. Conference of Chief Justices (former)
- Member, Asia Pacific Conferences of Chief Justices
- Member, CNMI Federal Bench Council
- Member, World Jurist Association
- Honorary Chairman of the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society

WORKERS

From Page 1

"A total of 2,530 petitions were approved consisting of 4,125 beneficiaries," Sebrechts said.

The 4,125 with approved CW permits represent almost 35 percent of the total number of foreign workers petitioned.

Looked the other way, that means some 65 percent or 7,684 of foreign workers have CW petitions that remain pending.

Sebrechts said 68 petitions were denied, consisting of 78 beneficiaries.

"Waiting for response to RFE [request for evidence] —1,123," she added.

Some of the foreign workers with still pending CW petitions said they remain uncertain about their immigration status some six months since the original Jan. 31 self-imposed deadline to adjudicate all applications.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that one of the administration's frustrations with the federal government is the long time it takes for the federal government to process all CW petitions, placing businesses and employees in limbo.

Lucy Salazar, 57, said she has been holding off on her planned vacation until she gets her CW permit. She said her CW petition was filed in late-December, and she has been waiting for more than six months now. She said she's done with the biometrics.

"The last time I went on vacation to see my family and relatives was in 2008; I can't wait to see them again," Salazar, a kitchen steward at M.V. Reyes Catering, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Sabalu Market in Susupe on Saturday.

Salazar has been working on Saipan for 21 years, starting as a garment factory sewer until the garment industry closed down.

"I believe there are four of us in our company holding off on our vacation because we don't have our CW permits yet. Only a few in our company received their permits. Most are still waiting. I'm hoping we don't have to wait any longer," she said.

Maria Calimag, 56, said she got her CW permit in February, two months after filing. She said because she's been working legally on Saipan for 23 years, she is still hoping that all long-term foreign workers in the CNMI will be granted improved status by the federal government.

"I think I was among the first few who received their CW permits early. I am thankful. I hope the federal government will be able to issue the CW permits to all who were petitioned," said Calimag, working at Barney's Pizza and Catering.

Calimag came to Saipan in 1989 to work as a garment factory sewer earning $2.15 an hour at the time. She worked at three different garment factories until the industry folded. Some 23 years later as a worker in the CNMI, Calimag said she is still earning minimum wage, now at $5.05 an hour.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, told the U.S. Government Accountability Office that the CNMI economic meltdown will worsen without transitional CW workers at the end of the transition period on Dec. 31, 2014. The group supports a five-year extension of the transition period.

GAO, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, will be issuing a report on the transition period and impacts of not extending it, among other things.

Fitial also supports extending the transition period, saying the local labor pool will still not be enough to fill the positions held by all legal foreign workers in the CNMI by the end of 2014.

Given the number of foreign workers petitioned for CW status, it means close to 12,000 foreign workers are still needed by private sector employers.

Fitial also wanted the federal government to give back local control of CNMI immigration.

Federal jury trial of Miah, Mirano set to begin today

A federal jury trial of Mohammad Jahangir Miah and Earl Eric Mirano, who are facing charges over a scheme of cashing "stale" CNMI tax refund checks at grocery stores, will begin today, Monday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona will preside the trial set for 9am.

After the jury selection, opening statements by prosecution and defense counsels would normally follow.

A superseding indictment or a new (replacement) indictment charged Miah and Mirano with conspiracy to commit bank fraud, and bank fraud.

The superseding indictment added the charge of bank fraud and removed Cecilia Blas as one of the defendants.

According to the indictment, Miah and Mirano unlawfully enriched themselves by fraudulently cashing stolen, "stale" tax refund checks, at local stores around Saipan.

The tax refund checks were those had not been claimed within one year of the CNMI government's issuance.

Miah would buy a "stale" tax refund check from a co-conspirator who had stolen the check from the Department of Finance.

Miah and other persons would alter the text of the check. Specifically, they would remove the name of the true payee, and put in its place a name of their own choosing, such as that of Mirano. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Woman in domestic violence gets probation

A woman charged of assaulting her son last year has entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to six months of probation.

Linda N. Pedro, 47, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja in an order issued on Wednesday accepted Pedro's guilty plea and sentenced her to six months in prison, all suspended.

During the supervised probation for six months, Pedro is required to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and $60 in probation fee.

Naraja ordered the defendant to complete 100 hours of community work service and submit to an examination focusing on anger management and alcohol/substance abuse counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

Pedro is also prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages and barred from entering any bar or other establishments whose primary purpose is the sale or consumption of alcohol during her probation.

As part of the plea deal, the judge dismissed the charge of assault and battery.

According to the plea agreement, on July 2, 2011 on Saipan, Pedro disturbed the peace of a household member. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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AS CUC TAKES OVER POWER PLANT 4

PMIC assures employees of smooth transition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Top officials of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Pacific Marine & Industrial Corp. celebrated yesterday their long years of partnership in a ceremony that also saw the attendance of the latter's employees.

CUC formally took over ownership and operation of Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico last Saturday following the execution of the $7.25-million buyout deal of PMIC's contract.

PMIC director Marcin Ostrowski, in his short speech yesterday, expressed the company's appreciation to all its employees who have worked and served the company throughout these years. He hosted a special luncheon yesterday at 360 Revolving Restaurant.

PMIC's original contract as independent power producer for CUC was supposed to expire in July 2016. However, the contract gave CUC an option for a buyout deal.

Ostrowski disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that negotiations for the buyout took many months. Under the deal, CUC will pay in installment the $7.25 million in a 27-month term, or roughly $331,000 per month. This is same amount being paid to PMIC under the current contract regardless if Power Plant 4 is operational or not.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Pacific Marine & Industrial Corp. director Marcin Ostrowski hosted yesterday a special luncheon to celebrate the formal turnover of Power Plant 4 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. From left, CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, Ostrowski, CUC deputy director for power system Wallon Young, and acting executive director Alan Fletcher. Inset, PMIC employees in attendance during the special luncheon and turnover ceremony.

Ostrowski admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that negotiations did not come as easy as many may have thought. He shared that "disputes" arose during the negotiations on some issues. But he said, they opted to solve them in a civilized manner which would be beneficial to both parties.

Ostrowski attributed the "good end result" of the negotiations to the leadership of former CUC executive director Abe Malae and his leadership team, namely acting executive director Alan Fletcher, chief financial officer Charles Warren, and deputy director for power system Wallon Young.

He said Warren did a good job in coming up with justified "figures" that led to the final agreement. The top official admitted that in the past, PMIC encountered difficulty in dealing with past CUC leaderships. Meaningful meetings, he said, only started in 2010 resulting in a good partnership between the two companies.

According to Warren, the buyout deal will save CUC over $5 million until 2016—the supposed termination of the original PMIC contract. He said once installment payments are made in less than three years, this may result to a lower rate for CUC customers as CUC will have additional revenue for operation.

CUC plans to shut down Power Plant 4 and it will serve only as emergency backup, which means significant savings for CUC.

Transfer of employees

Saipan Tribune learned that 26 employees were working at Power Plant 4 at the time of the buyout. Twelve of them are directly hired by PMIC, while 14 were employed by PMIC's local partner, Triple L company.

Ostrowski yesterday disclosed the plans for affected workforce and assured their smooth transition. He revealed that part of the agreement's condition is to transfer affected employees to CUC's management.

During the transition, Ostrowski said PMIC will keep the employees under its payroll. "Their jobs will be kept until they are transferred to CUC," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Former PMIC employees interviewed yesterday said they were relieved on the "promise" made by Ostrowski.

Cesar Puig and Geraldo Biniahan, an electrician and a mechanic, respectively, said nothing but good words for PMIC which they said has shown commitment and care to their employees. They're hopeful that everyone will be transferred to CUC.

Ostrowski told *Saipan Tribune* that last week, PMIC employees were asked to fill in employment application forms which the company submitted to CUC. The same process, he said, was also conducted for Triple L. In acknowledging that no promise has been made by CUC on these applications, Ostrowski is confident that his former staff will be considered as they are all highly qualified and skilled professionals.

CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher said CUC intends to hire 12 people whom he described as highly skilled and could continue working for CUC. However, he emphasized that nothing has been final yet as negotiations and processing are ongoing.

It was also revealed that CUC has received a requirement to fill 15 more technical administrative slots which affected employees may come in.

"We are now assessing all the workforce needs at PMIC and CUC and see where we can merge those together. No final determination has been made, but we know that they have a solid professional team and good technical workforce. CUC would like to utilize those talents as it can," he said after yesterday's ceremony.

Fletcher also acknowledged PMIC's great help during CUC's bad times, when rolling blackouts and power interruptions were the norm in previous years.

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IN FUND BANKRUPTCY CASE

OPA asked to audit $1.2M legal fees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) formally requested the Office of the Public Auditor on Thursday to audit the reported $1.2 million in legal fees being charged to the NMI Retirement Fund in connection with the pension agency's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing that a federal court judge later dismissed.

Dela Cruz asked that the audit be performed immediately and a response from OPA no later than July 13, 2012.

He asked OPA to determine the work performed by all legal firms in the filing of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition on behalf of the Fund, a listing of all legal firms involved in the case and their hourly rate charge, and the number of hours charged by each legal firm.

Dela Cruz, at the same time, asked OPA to determine whether the Fund issued a request for proposal or awarded a sole-source contract for its bankruptcy lawyers, including one from Boston.

He was referring to Boston-based Brown & Rudnick law firm.

"Was the decision to file bankruptcy and the retention of legal counsels made in public meetings pursuant to notice in compliance with the Open Government Act?" Dela Cruz asked Public Auditor Mike Pai in a two-page letter.

Pai has yet to respond media request for comment on Dela Cruz's request.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said it should be the Office of the Attorney General, not OPA, to investigate the charges made by the Fund's counsels.

"The AG would have the authority to file complaint or stop the payment of funds if it finds that the law firms improperly billed or charged excessively, for example," Torres told *Saipan Tribune.*

Dela Cruz said the $1.2 million in legal fees still does not include the $250,000 retainer fee that has already been paid to the same legal firms.

Dela Cruz

"To think that this case had only taken about one month to be adjudicated with an astronomical price tag leaves everybody, most especially retirees, wondering if this in fact is justified and fair. I myself wonder if these attorneys in their deep sleep at night are still working on the clock to get this legal cost to where it is now," Dela Cruz told Pai.

Dela Cruz said there are hundreds if not thousands of legal firms near the CNMI specializing in bankruptcy proceedings.

"Why someone from Boston?" he asked.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed the Fund under a state of emergency, but the Senate adopted a resolution on Thursday amending that executive order. The House needs to also approve of the Senate joint resolution for the amendments to take effect.

Creditors committee lawyer demands $65,124

The Hawaii-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors is demanding $65,124.61 in payment from the NMI Retirement Fund for its participation in the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case.

Committee counsel Don Jeffrey Gelber asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division yesterday to approve $64,642.71 (including Hawaii general excise tax) in compensation to his law firm, Gelber, Gelber & Ingersoll, plus reimbursement of $481.90 in expenses, for a total of $65,1245.61.

Gelber said the compensation covers the period from May 11, 2012, through June 27, 2012.

He is also seeking payments for services performed and costs advanced from June 28, 2012, until the date of the hearing on the application.

Because of the hardship to retirees and other Fund beneficiaries caused by the Fund's insolvency, Gelber said that the law firm has agreed that it's hourly rate for him as lead attorney would be reduced from $450 to $360 per hour. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Air Force to conduct training at FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 2, 3, and 6 from 8am to 12:59am.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements.

In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DPS-074

SUBMISSION: JULY 19, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ADMINISTRATION, IMPLEMENTATION & FINANCIAL REPORTING OF THE SMART GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JULY 02, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE *IS NOT AVAILABLE* BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDRAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

JOE HILL, ESQ.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. BOX 500917, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MIR MAHBOBUR RAHMAN, Petitioner,	] FCD DI
versus	] CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0294
JUDITH JULIAN KINOCH-RAHMAN, Respondent.	] **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 20th of June, 2012.

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, July 03, 2012, 3:00 p.m. at the Public School System Board of Education Conference Room, Bwughos Street, Susupe Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
- **Roll Call**
- **Presence of a Quorum**
- **Adoption of Agenda**
- **Adoption of Minutes**
  - **March 21, 2012**

II. Interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Autism & Intellectual Disabilities
III. 2011 – 2012 Parent Surveys – Return Rate
IV. Special Education Program Data – Personnel & Child count
V. Other Matters
VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ Frances Diaz
Chairwoman

/S/ Suzanne W. Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

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* The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the duffel bag is $100 (or just $5 with direct deposit). Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. You will receive the duffel bag as a gift when you open a new (not converted) personal checking account. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one duffel bag per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires 7/14/12, or when supplies are exhausted.

Indonesian dish tops 2012 Kikkoman Cook-Off

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Winners for the main entree category for the 2012 Kikkoman Cook-Off are flanked by the judges after the awarding last Saturday. Manic Inn kitchen staffer Pipit Surya, third right, is this year's winner for her flavorful entry called Manic Beef Rendang.

A much-celebrated Indonesian dish was adjudged the winning main entrée in the 2012 Kikkoman Cook-Off hosted by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises at the Joeten Susupe Shopping Center last Saturday.

The Manic Beef Rendang entry of Pipit Surya from Susupe village got the approving nods of the judges, who described the dish as "out of the ordinary."

Surya's rendition of the flavorful recipe was prepared using Certified Angus Beef simmered for hours in a rich sauce made of fresh coconut milk and spices that include shallots, garlic, macadamia nuts, turmeric, red pepper, lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, and Kikkoman.

A native of Sulawesi Island in Indonesia, Surya said in an interview after the event that it was her first time to join a culinary competition and didn't expect to win.

"I was just doing it for fun. I think it's a great experience for fun," said the kitchen staffer of Manic Inn where she specializes in Asian cuisine.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Manic Beef Rendang, the winning dish under the main entree category.

Surya, who regularly shops at Joeten Susupe for grocery items needed at work, said she has been using Kikkoman since moving to the island for over two years because it adds flavor to any dish, be it the Japanese yakisoba or the Filipino dish called adobo.

She believes that most people on island haven't tried Indonesian dishes, including her favorite Beef Rendang. "It's nice to cook something different for people," added Surya.

Surya won $150 worth of Joeten gift certificates plus gift bags from D&Q, Marpac, and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. for besting three other contestants who all prepared dishes that were evaluated based on taste, texture, originality, and presentation.

The panel of judges was comprised of Joeten produce manager Gemma Villanueva, market manager Anthony Aguon, and assistant comptroller Deo Manese.

Manese related in a separate interview how difficult it was to be one of the judges since all the entries had excellent taste.

"Their cooking was really very good because you can really taste the Kikkoman flavor in every dish. I always use Kikkoman but I cannot use it in the same effective way that they did," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Jeanne Rayphand placed second and won $100 in Joeten gift certificates and gift packs for her Chicken Marianas entry. Ruby Manalo bagged third place for her dish called Furikake Crusted Chicken Teriyaki on a Bed of Stir-fried Vegetables with Kikkoman Soy Sauce. At fourth place is Andrew Jon Songsong for his Island-style Sukiyaki.

For the appetizer category, Crystal Seidler's Chicken Wings won by default and earned her $150 in Joeten gift certificates and gift packs after Rommel Villaviza arrived late to submit his entry called Ahi-Nori Tempura and Marinated Grilled Shrimp with Soy Wine Cream Sauce and Spicy Mango Salsa. The judges agreed to give $50 gift certificates and gift packs to recognize the efforts of Villaviza, who was not on time due to work.

Joeten customers were able to sample the dishes during Saturday's event.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The panel of judges try out and evaluate the entries for the 2012 Kikkoman Cook-Off last Saturday at the Joeten Susupe Shopping Center. From left to right, Joeten produce manager Gemma Villanueva, assistant comptroller Deo Manese, and market manager Anthony Aguon.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"
July 2, 2012

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2012 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is August 6, 2012, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

Jesse S. Palacios
Acting Corporate Director
/s/

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PY 2012 FUNDING

This advertisement is paid for by NMHC with CPD Funds.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of $1,216,448 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving $793,489 in Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG); $354,780 in Home Investment Partnership (HOME) funds; and $68,179 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2012.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs. Program Year 2012 CDBG funding will be allocated to the Construction of the New Junior High School, located in Koblerville, Saipan, as indicated in the PY 2012 Annual Action Plan.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, essential services, administrative costs, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities. In April 2012, a public hearing was held to announce the planned activities for the use of ESG funds, which will be allocated for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities. The CNMI, through the NMHC, has identified Karidat as the Subgrantee of PY 2012 ESG funds. At the hearings to be held on August 2nd and August 3rd, 2012, the general public will be informed about the planned activities, as a public hearing was already held for the ESG funds, and no public comments were received. The comment period for the ESG Substantial Amendment to the PY 2011 Action Plan and NMHC's 5-Year Consolidated Plan ended on May 9, 2012.

Information concerning eligibility uses of the grant funds may be obtained upon request at the respective offices of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located on Garapan, Saipan; San Jose, Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota.

The NMHC will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the identified CDBG and ESG activities and on HOME-eligible activities. The public hearings will be held as follows:

1. **On Rota, August 2, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Office, Songsong Village;**
2. **On Saipan, August 2, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan; and,**
3. **On Tinian, August 3, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village**

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the public hearing is available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries concerning the community planning and developments programs may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP. 96950, or by contacting the Planning Division at 670-234-6866/7689/7670.

Jesse S. Palacios
Acting Corporate Director
/s/

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 2, 2001

Fitial clears clouds on Rota CIP delay

He is barking up the wrong tree. Thus said House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, referring to the complaint of Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona over the alleged inaction of the House of Representatives on a bill appropriating funds from the Capitol Improvement Projects for Rota. In the first place, Fitial said House Bill 12-130 - which aims to allocate more than $50 million in CIP funds for Rota - stayed at the Senate for nine months. According to him, HB 12-130 was first passed by the House in April 2000. It immediately went to the Senate, which passed the measure only on January 16, 2001.

OPL told to impose uniform rental fees

"Why am I paying two thousand dollars and some two hundred dollars to three hundred dollars a month?" This question was raised by a marine sports operator over the alleged double standard lease policy of the Office of Public Lands to beach concessionaires. Van Le, owner of the Mas Marine, Inc., which has a lease agreement with the OPL for his 400-square foot beach concession, cried foul over the rentals imposed on his company by the government.

July 2, 2002

BoS opposes Castro's disqualification

Bank of Saipan counsel Calvo and Clark accused court-appointed receiver Randall T. Fennell of attempting to "delay and manipulate" the BoS appellate proceedings when the latter sought for Supreme Court Justice Alexandro Castro's disqualification from the hotly-contested case. In its answer to Fennell's motion for Castro's recusal filed before the high court, the bank, through lawyer Rodney J. Jacob, asserted that the receiver's move "can only be perceived as an attempt to break up the panel so that it is incapable of expedited resolution of this writ proceeding." Among others, BoS pointed out that proceedings have been tainted by Fennell's alleged improper ex parte tactics, which required the bank to petition for relief in the Supreme Court.

Speaker's office back to 8-hour operations

Starting yesterday, the Office of the Speaker at the House of Representatives has returned to its normal eight-hour daily operations-a development that its employees welcomed with sighs of relief. "It feels good to be back on eight hours," said Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, executive secretary to House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider. This comes after more than two months of operating at just six hours daily, Monday to Friday, a necessity brought on by the need to cut back on expenses to ensure that the office's budget would last until September 30-the end of the fiscal year.

July 2, 2003

BoR approves ETC policy

The Northern Marianas College Board of Directors has given NMC president Kenneth Wright the authority to solicit, receive, and recommend the use of any educational tax credit donation to the college. This even as the board unanimously approved Friday a policy on the use of ETC funds. BoR finance committee chair Galvin Deleon Guerrero said the president-or his designee-is the only authority, as granted by the board, to oversee the ETC fund. "The president is responsible for soliciting and accepting ETC donation. It's the president and only the president.I just hope that the president will exercise extreme discretion on who to delegate it to," said Guerrero during the meeting. Based on the newly adopted policy, ETC will be part of the college' comprehensive revenue fund.

MPLA's Castro, Villagomez' terms up

Two members of the Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors remain uncertain as to whether they would continue being on board or not. The terms of board chairperson Ana Demapan-Castro and vice chairman Manuel Villagomez will expire next week, according to MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider. The situation, he said, prompted his office to schedule a board meeting for today, two weeks ahead of its regular schedule. The meeting will be at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. "We're waiting for the governor's decision on this matter," said Hofschneider, adding that having a board's quorum is crucial amid concerns that need the body's urgent attention. "We don't want MPLA to lag behind. We can't conduct new business without a quorum," he said. Right now, the board is composed of Castro, Villagomez, Pedro Atalig, and LJ Igitol.

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?

If you answer "Yes" to all of these questions, contact WIA at (670) 664-1704/5, 7 & 8 (Saipan), (670) 433-1700 (Tinian), or (670) 532-1701 (Rota). You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

Dislocated Worker Funding Program

- **U.S. Citizen or Registered Alien**
- **Meet Selective Service Requirements**
- **Have received the required Eligibility for services**
- **Must be 18 years or older**

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, form employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such family close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other that training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710
Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701
Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Europe teeters: Can it finally defuse the debt crisis?

If Europe had a euro for every economic summit meeting its leaders hold, the continent wouldn't have a financial crisis. It would be awash in cash.

Yet another summit starts Thursday. Expect to see a lot of furrowed brows. Don't expect much more.

The grave risk of debt default by the weakest nations in Europe has put a drag on growth there and in the U.S. The European Central Bank, which not long ago expected to see signs of recovery by the fourth quarter of 2012, now anticipates more months of misery and the prospect that more nations will slip into recession. The crisis still has the potential to touch off a 2008-style financial meltdown there.

The summit set for Thursday and Friday in Brussels comes with low expectations. In recent days, the feeling of being stuck without an answer has radiated from the capitals of Europe. Investors, losing patience, have raised the borrowing costs for Spain and Italy to a point that can't be sustained. Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti declared a few days ago that Europe has one week to save the euro, the common currency for 17 of the European Union's 27 members.

To get unstuck, the EU needs a breakthrough. Investors are calling for "the big bazooka": a way to fix what ails Europe in one shot.

That won't happen. There is no quick fix.

Europe needs German Chancellor Angela Merkel to hold firm in the face of vitriolic screams that Germany is strangling its weaker neighbors by refusing to allow them to repeat the same old mistakes.

The anti-German rhetoric has gotten ugly, but Merkel has wisely resisted pressure from the down-and-out countries of southern Europe to write off their debts without surrendering more power over their budgets and banking systems to a central authority. No way will she agree to issue common bonds, weakening Germany's strong credit rating, without ensuring that the same spendthrift nations won't just spend their way into another crisis.

She is key to brokering a deal that puts Europe on a track for stability and, eventually, renewed prosperity.

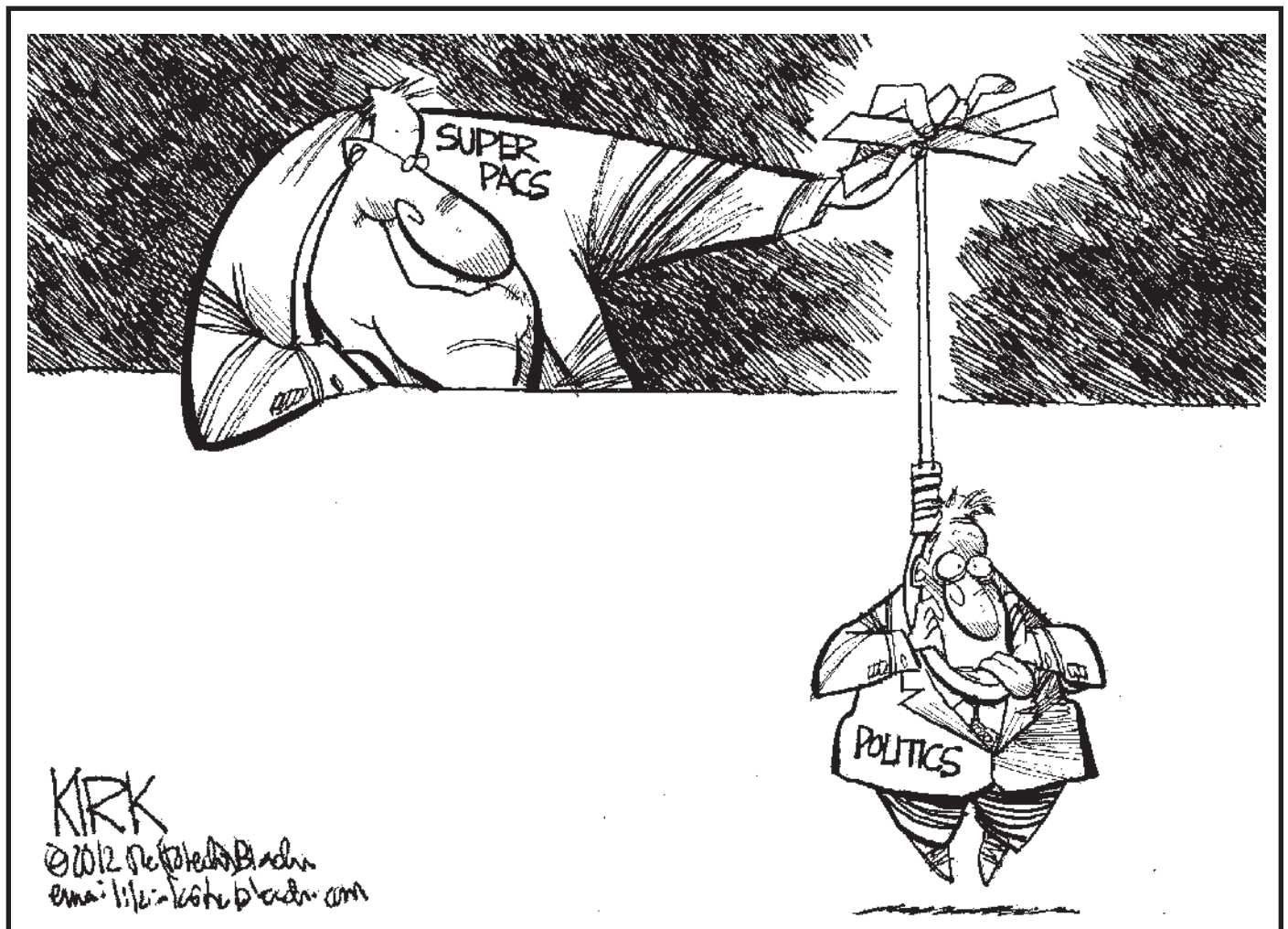
We suspect the breakthrough will come in a succession of shots rather than just one. Europe needs to establish a framework for managing its debt and becoming more competitive over time. That will require agreement on several fronts:

_Banking Union: At the outset, this week's summit is set to focus on eurozone banking reform. The currency union needs an agreed-upon method for liquidating insolvent institutions, a central backstop to guarantee deposits and stricter supervision by the European Central Bank. It needs to recognize bad loans, and recapitalize banks such as the many in Spain that no longer can provide the credit that businesses need to function.

_Fiscal Union: Formation of the eurozone enabled financially weak countries to borrow from international markets at low rates. The temptation proved irresistible for some _ most notably Greece, which borrowed and spent much more than it ever could afford to pay back. Even after two bailouts that slashed its debt load, the Aegean nation is quaking under the pressure of what it owes and begging to spread out the pain of its insolvency over time. Fiscal union will enable cooler heads to limit future spending excesses so that no euro nation ever again takes on such crippling levels of sovereign debt.

Growth: The eurozone needs to grow, but its debt-riddled na-

See EUROPE on Next Page



Are we willing to work on the road to prosperity?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

"What the mind of man can conceive and believe, he can achieve." This is the theme of Napoleon Hill's popular book: *Think and Grow Rich*. Let's repeat it: "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, he can achieve." Think poor and we remain poor. Think rich and we become rich. Think positive and we become positive. Think negative and we become negative. Yes, our frame of mind dictates who we become.

We have all heard the saying: "Being poor is a state of the mind. But being broke is a temporary situation." In other words if we think we are poor, regardless of the money and help we receive, we will always be poor because we think poor. However if we lose money or are temporarily short of it, our endeavors will bring back the money.

I hate to tell you how much money I have lost in some of my businesses, but somehow I have always bounced back. Think about what happened to my huge investment on the Outer Cove Marina. Therefore being out of money or short of it can be a temporary situation if we are willing to work to regain it. What types of individuals are we—poor or temporarily broke?

By now we are all aware that the local government is bankrupt both monetary and I add morally for what it has done to us, its citizens who put our trust and faith in it. We are in a deep depression. People are running away, prices are escalating; tourism is down while businesses close daily. The incredibly high CUC power rates are adding greatly to this demise of our economic life. Daily we stand in awe—powerless--watching our community, once proud and once on the road to prosperity, slowly suffocating.

Forgive me for being redundant every week preaching the same message. But what else should I talk about? I find very few of us struggling for improvement. We are mainly trying to stop the worsening conditions or running away from it instead of seeking improvement. Though most of the problems cannot be solved instantly, they can be solved step by step if we begin with examining ourselves and what we did that brought us to this point of desperation.

The first step to overcoming our dilemma is to begin developing ourselves. We must overcome the lack of developed "human capital" that we should have developed a long time ago, but did not. To me this is our basic problem: we refuse to work hard and take control of our economy. We prefer letting others do the work we should be doing ourselves.

When we need a plumber, carpenter, painter, auto repair, electrician, or any other skilled tradesman/tradeswoman, whom do we call? How many qualified resident citizens trained in these trades do we have regardless of the salary rate? We just do not have the skilled trades people. That is what is meant by "human capital."

Do we ever ask if our leaders are motivating us? Plainly put: Is anyone motivating our citizens to learn a skill or trade? What are our opinions regarding people who do work with their hands? Are they on our social level on do we look down on them? Is working with our hands a degrading job? When we do this type of work do we feel proud or shameful?

Over the years the greatest yearning of all of us including our children has been to land a good cushion job with the local government. There for the next 20 years we can hibernate and expect to receive a good pension. But alas that bubble has now burst. Goodbye pension fund. What do we do now? Are we ready to do real work?

Without realizing it we created a socialist class. When our government spends over 75 percent of its budget for employees' salaries, how can it be a government "of the people and for the people?" It is worrying more about restoring an 80 hour week for its own employees and forgetting the many people in the private sector. It forgets that its proper function is to govern, not operate industries.

Next to developing our "human capital," we must examine our resources. What do we have or can produce that the market will buy from us? Economic growth comes from having something to offer—something others need and are willing to pay for it.

We have at least two wonderful natural resources to offer the market. One natural resource is that our islands are blessed with skies and beautiful scenery surrounded with unpolluted blue waters. And add to that a close proximity to Asia's crowded cities. As a result we are able to offer a retreat from their heat and congestion. Thus we should actively try to increase and improve our tourism. Kudos to those hard working individuals who toil every day in trying to improve our tourist market. Currently tourism is our number one industry. Are we also helping to improve this industry?

The second natural resources we possess are large tracts of arable land in which we can grow thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables. We can also grow animals for food. We have the ability and capacity to become a food basket for Guam and even Japan. I have discussed this at length in earlier writings. All we need is the strong desire to produce and deliver those fruits and vegetable. In my naïve thinking, I truly feel that we can recover most of our lost prosperity by tilling the soil under our feet.

But an increase in tourism and an increase in agriculture can only come about with our development of human capital. People, we

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Americares

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The Supreme Court decided to review the constitutionality of the Obamacare legislation (lower court judgment was 13 upholding, 3 not) before it recessed for the summer, and revealed a split judgment Thursday, mirroring the nation's divide.

At the core of the dispute is the individual mandate that requires everyone to get health insurance, and failure to do so entails a penalty. The contention was that Congress exceeded its power to legislate the provision under the Commerce clause, which gives it duty to regulate interstate commerce. The law commands rather than regulates.

The truth, of course, is the conservative aversion of the Federal reach getting into their pocketbooks, or just simply intruding into their sovereign right to make their own mistakes, a constitutionally protected right.

Portion of the media dubbed Obamacare, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), allows the Federal government to threaten withholding grants to State Medicaid programs when non-compliance is deemed. The SC decision identified this as a No-No. However one parses the SC judgment, the PPACA survived, and the constitutionality of the Obamacare program was upheld. Five Justices said "Aye"; the other four said "Nay", divided along political lines save Bush appointee Chief Justice John Roberts, a known conservative, stayed the constitutional course rather than vote Right as anticipated!

Roberts laborious slicing between regulating through the "Commerce clause" and the right to "tax" led CNN and Fox news to jump the gun and reported in its breaking news that the individual mandate was declared unconstitutional. They were wrong. Obamacare lives!

Having previously declared myself to be supportive of some political donkeys on island, and not a big fan of the political elephants, we were tempted to gloat in classic partisan style. So we refrained from writing Thursday so that we might be a little cooler and more balanced Monday morning.

Nah. Didn't work. Or, in our appropriated Chinoy heritage, we have a better appreciation of the manners of moderation and the politics of gloating harmoniously!

In our social activist past, we were incensed at the watering down of benchmark case laws, from universal suffrage to women's rights, the New Deal and the Civil Rights Act. More than a good century after the ceremonial emancipation of African-American slaves, dark skin still connotes second-class citizenship.

Still, in this instance, the highest court of the land found a controversial legislation within the constitutional parameters of the nation, the Justices putting their pens behind the cause of movement rather than defending a status quo gone berserk.

Movement has been the character of the American soul. While Europe bickered with the defense of territorial gains, "Go West, young man (sic)" was America's early advice to its adventurous young. That directional advice went as far as Dewey Blvd (now, Roxas Blvd) in the famed Manila Bay sunset.

Something in the waters of America, with all its chemical pollution, is receptive to periodic change sans violent revolution. May we drink more, and drink deeply, from these waters.

Perhaps, my media colleagues will now desist in calling the Health Care Reform movement pushed further by the Obama administration as Obamacare. It is really Americares, with no apologies for commitment to look after the barely making it and the struggling ones in a country that prides itself of enlightenment and human progress.

Health reform has taken more than a century to finally get a legislative and judicial nod. It is a rearguard movement in the United States. We lag behind other countries in instituting universal health care. Attempts to legislate such reform began with Teddy Roosevelt without any success. Mitt Romney, while governor of Massachusetts, signed a health reform law that is not dissimilar from Obamacare that he has consistently vowed to dismantle if elected into office.

Reactive response is a conservative virtue when in hindsight it throws out the bathwater gone stale. It is demonic when it trashes the baby along with the refuse. Still, the issue is not on remedial interventions at the trauma centers. It remains, as the conservatives are wont to remind us, a question of individual responsibility, and for each one finally to be made accountable to maintaining their own health care.

Scratch a check for the White House in successfully gaining acceptance of its health care big picture. As everyone knows, the devil is in the detail. PPACA in the small picture will have the opportunists aiming for a quick buck while implementing agencies stay cautious by not doing much too quickly, and organized stakeholders vie for a favorable position to influence further policy elaboration, program refinement, and budgetary allocation.

Meanwhile, those of us outside the grid of institutional health care still have to dig deep on reserves, a commodity fast disappearing, but never mind. Emergence of American universal health coverage might yet emerge in our lifetime, and for that, this wearing-of-the-heart-up-our-sleeves guy, is mighty pleased.

Good work, America!

PROSPERITY

From Page 10

must want to work! Prosperity will not come from outside sources. We must bend or backs and feel the sweat on our brows. Someone once said: " God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw it into its nest."

I appeal to our older citizens who recall having worked hard in their youth. Please come forth and tell us what you did as a youth and what we should do today. Show us how proud you feel that you did that work. Please don't retire without sharing the valuable treasure you possess.

Forgive me for singing the same song over and over again—the need to work to succeed personally and for our community to succeed. I have worked hard all my life from my youth. I had to pay for my own college expenses. When my parents passed away they weren't able to leave my brother, sister, and me much. I learned what it means to want something so badly that I would go almost to any lengths to attain it. Forgive my personal interjections, but I know that hard and smart work will bring total satisfaction in life.

Let us spend more time considering how to improve ourselves and our community and less time on words criticizing our government. Let us stop pointing fingers at individuals in blame for what they have done and what they are doing. We must spend more time on cultivating our own backyards for that is where happiness, prosperity and pride lie.

Yes, I am preachy. But you know I am correct but refuse to accept it. Remember me the next time you put your hand out for food stamps. Are you proud of yourself?

Yes, darn it, there are plenty of jobs, but why aren't we willing to take them? In closing think of the following quote by Sidney J. Phillips: "Men are made stronger on realization that the helping hand they need is at the end of their own arm."

So, are we willing to work on the road to prosperity or are we mentally poor and just good for whining? Remember, what the mind of man can conceive and believe he can achieve!

Have a great week and remember to SMILE!

EUROPE

From Page 10

tions can't afford to do that with government stimulus. One obvious course is to sweep away regulations that handcuff labor markets, particularly in southern-tier nations. Employers in Italy, for instance, face costly rules that discourage hiring and expansion. Tax hikes have hurt as well. Relieving the burden of inflexible work rules and oppressive tax regimes would help restore productivity growth in the part of Europe that needs it most. Sound impossible? Germany freed its economy. Other nations can too.

In the words of a certain Chicago mayor, you never want a serious crisis to go to waste. Europe is in danger, but it also has an opportunity to answer with a stronger union.

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Dibinan Manehante

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sige lahihu ha pache fotgun unai i hinatsasaña fina' guma gi kantun tasi. Mientras tantos, hu ebalulua kau fitme ya ti umayamag `an monhayan.

Dispues de añglu', kau u madisgrana yan manu gi halom granun unai finenina para u muebague'? Kau u batsala papa' i pumalu? Yangin hu' kula todu i inai ya unna' fan parehu mineduñg niha, kau u sustene tumachu ya ti u machalapun papa'? Bula kuestion ni ti opiyun.

I puntu: Todu ta petsige piot 'nai sumasaunau ha'anen linahyan, debi u guaha listu na planu pot siakassu na madisgrana i asuntu ni ta petsisige. Dibinan manehante i asuntu ni debi ta atetuye sinparat para minauleg i linahyan piot gi halom ira 'sino mattirun naturat pat diskuiduta mismu.

Hu tuka este na attikulu pot hu lie' na mampos matman i manehanten gobietnamentu guine. Ni unu malagu' mumueba kalañke'ña pot no buente u odda'. Entre ennau 'sino mampos nina' fan disgnau ni te'ug na asuntun linahyan siha na esta nina' fan udu, bachet yan tañga.

Gi hilu' gueku yan oppan na taya' animu para uma-adelanta i ha'anen i tautau siha gi señgsoñg, guaha mas para in' atrebi prumisenta gi batbaru na mañan kabron yan muron na biahe? Kau magahet na man-tai haga' matan miyu para in' dage i publiku ta'lu? Adahe na hame ni publiku dispues bai'n pada' pechun mame mea culpa pot yine'ase' gi man-tai balin miyu? De dios!

■■■

Mas didog mamamaila'

Klaru na man-apalo'pu' siha sustansiau na asuntun linahyan ni muna' litiku kinalamten operasion gobietnamentu guine.

Mientras gaston nesessidat publiku sige hulu', pinatañg 'nai sige lokue' man-mahuchum i bisnis siha. Este na chinatsaga fuetsau ha utut i kantidan rinikohen kontribusion tax. 'Nai ma'tut i kontribusion tax, mas menos na fondu gi kaha para apas sueddu yan setbisiun publiku siha.

Este na chinatsaga umafagcha' yan i mamamaila' na mattirun basnag ekonomian i mas dañkulu gi tanu', iya Uropa. Ya ti umahñau na este na pesti todu siempre u affekta kontodu hita guine. Estague' un' silensiu na milag lagu' botkan ni tat ti u soñge sa' esta sige mage.

■■■

Fondun Retirau

Tat nasion maseha sumen dañkulu fuetsan ekonomiaña ti nina' matompu' ni obligasion fondu para i man-retirau. Deste America, nasion Uropa siha, Japon yan otru lugat siha sige ma-estudiaye taimanu 'nai para u kontinua este na setbisiu. Ayu mas ma-konsidedera i man-amku' ni numessesita ayudun hinemlu'.

Hita lokue' guine ti man-soplu hit ginen dibinan este na obligasion. Debi u fan ma-apase i man-retirau. Lau ginen manu mage ennau na fondu? Gi mismu tiempu, kau guaha tetehnan dispues de ma-apase i man-retirau para usun hinemlu', edukasion yan otru siha presisu na setbisiun publiku? Estague 'nai gaige i mamakatña i kuestion. Lau na ti guaha man-offrese "better times" guine gi alacha?

■■■

Eskatminan Silensiu

Estague' un' sumen bonitu na sunidu piot ya ginacha' hau mamatmos gi halom masgu' lago'mu sa' para un' dinispacha as neni. I tunada paire finaposña, kontodu palabrasña. Satton na finaisen gi nobia para un' ninae' ni dos patman kanaiña. I problema: siñaha' ninae' hau 'sino ha ñega enteramente finaisesen-mu.

Chamu hinahalañg. Sige ha' chumukan i uttimu na diniseha ginen i korasonmu. Pasensiaye si neni gi hilu' kariñosu na iniga puede guaha kampu gi mames na korasoña para un' ineppe prontu hafa un' diseseha. Siempre u fattu ennau na respuestasion, kau huñgan pat ahe'. Lau siempre u fattu antes de mina' tres na minachum atdau.

Pot chaleg: Hana' hahassuyu' este na kanta 'nai man-mayute' i lalahen Saipan gi sisienta siha na sakan ni nobian niha pot mantai botas (boots) Beatles. Man-madalalag i boys ginen Guam. Ai, man-mayute gi un' banda pot botas kukunitus Iñglatera. Ni pumadan Menuma' ti ginana tatte sensian neni. Sali ham ha' dispues de mañganta "Hard Days Night" para bai'n lasa mamahlau mame pinadesen botas. Ai dios mihu na putin chetnot!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you!

My children join me in expressing our heartfelt thank you to our families, friends, colleagues, and the CNMI community for the generous contributions extended to assist my husband, Frank M. Diaz, in the efforts to raise funds towards his medical expenses.

We realize that the community shares in the burdensome hardship of our economic distress; and seeking help during this time of strain and struggle is painful, however necessary. We are blessed to have a community willing to lend a hand to help even while faced with personal adversities. Accordingly, we are overwhelmed with profound gratitude for the kindness and generosity bestowed to assist in our family's time of need, and on behalf of Frank. It means so much to us and we are deeply touched by your heartwarming gesture of love, compassion and encouragement.

We sincerely appreciate the many and continued prayers for Frank. Your prayers is the most important and valuable gift of which we truly cherish. Thank you so much; and may you have an abundance of God's blessing and may he keep you in his loving care for always.

Bedu Diaz
Chalan Galaide

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

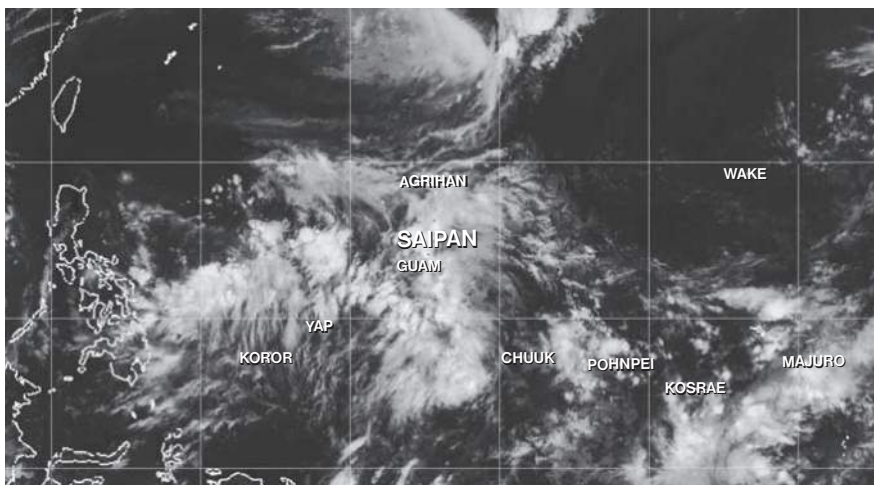
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲66	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲53	▼45
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲91	▼72
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲83	▼73
Paris	Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼70
Salem	Showers	▲72	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲85	▼71
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲77	▼69
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲98	▼78

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from a broad circulation centered east of 9N131E to end south-southeast of Chuuk at EQ155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are taking place near the trough and east of the circulation across the Republic of Palau and Yap state within 125 miles of a line from 11N130E to 9N140E to 4N147E. An upper-level trough meanders eastward from 18N130E to 18N143E to 10N156E to a low centered northeast of Wake Island at 23N172E to beyond 25N at 175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over the Marianas within 200 miles of a line from 18N135E to 18N150E. A surface trough reaches northward from EQ154E to 13N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this system are seen over Chuuk and Pohnpei within 125 miles of a line from 13N148E to 7N149E to 1N156E. Surging trade winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Enewetak to Kwajalein atolls between 7N and 13N from 162E to 174E. Similar weather exists southeast of Kosrae and south of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from EQ166E to 6N172E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:18 PM	3:54 AM
Tuesday	6:19 PM	4:57 AM
Wednesday	7:15 PM	6:00 AM
Thursday	8:06 PM	7:02 AM
Friday	8:53 PM	8:00 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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$658K grant for CHC emergency preparedness OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was notified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that it will receive a grant award totaling to $658,184 to strengthen all hazards emergency preparedness response in the CNMI.

The corporation's emergency preparedness program administers the public health and hospital emergency preparedness cooperative agreement, which supports the public health and hospital in demonstrating measurable and sustainable progress towards achieving 15 hospital preparedness capabilities and other activities that promote awareness, prevention, readiness and more resilient communities.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed receiving the notification from DHHS and claimed that the corporation has made tremendous advances in hospital preparedness and response since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The terrorist attacks highlighted the importance of health security and the need to expand the federal government's investments in state and local public health and hospital Preparedness.

Warren F. Villagomez, director of CHCC's Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program, oversees the entire programs goals and objectives.

Villagomez, in a statement Friday, said together with the corporation's partnership and coalition with the Office of Homeland Security, other government agencies and non-government agencies, and other private healthcare providers, the corporation's Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program indicates that much progress has been made to build capacity in public health awareness and response capabilities in receiving, distributing, and dispensing medical assets.

Villagomez said the Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreements focuses on advancing both preparedness through public health surveillance, community preparedness, medical countermeasure dispensing, responder safety and health, emergency operations coordination, emergency public information and warning, volunteer management, and other capabilities.

It also addresses lessons learned during the recent large-scale incidents like the H1N1 influenza pandemic response by encouraging health departments to develop and implement strategies for effective state and local government's emergency response, he added.

Statewide communication interoperability workshop set

The CNMI continues to make progress toward improving its emergency communications capabilities. On July 10-11, 2012, the CNMI OHS collaborative efforts with DHS Office of Homeland Security will hold the 2012 CNMI Statewide Communication Interoperability workshop that will bring together over 30 state and local public safety officials from across the CNMI government agencies, including representatives from CNMI government, federal agencies, CNMI Emergency Responders stakeholders, and private partners.

The group will meet and further implement the statewide strategic plan known as the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and improve statewide interoperable communications capabilities. Emergency communications interoperability refers to the ability of emergency responders—police officers, fire personnel, and emergency medical services—to share vital voice and data information across disciplines and jurisdictions during emergency incidents.

With support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), meeting participants discussed communications interoperability gaps and statewide initiatives to meet those gaps. Participants also will use the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the CNMI's strategic path forward. CNMI's Office of Homeland Security special advisor Marvin K. Seman and the state's SCIP's working group and local to public safety officials will continue to work together in the future to address first responder's interoperable communications.

The CNMI has made significant strides in communications interoperability through such efforts as establishing MOUs to outline roles and responsibility of all appropriate agencies with regards to interoperability, procured upgradeable P25 compliant radios for the Department of Public Safety, Tinian and Rota Moto-Turbo interoperability radios, and ongoing Motorola upgrade Astro P25 compliant for Saipan. These initiatives are included in the State's SCIP, which aligns with OEC's National Emergency Communications Plan—a national strategic plan for improving emergency communications capabilities. This alignment ensures the CNMI is tackling interoperable communications in a strategic way that is consistent with national policies.

"This is important that we take these initiatives ensuring our first responders across the CNMI and government support agencies have better statewide interoperability," said Jordon Lee I. Kosam, chief of Ports Police and the chairman of CNMI SCIP. "The CNMI SCIP's long term goal is to have all government agencies to include private partners be able to talk to one another during incidents or any significant event.

During an emergency response incident, voice and data communications are essential to the success of an operation. Through continued efforts such as these, the CNMI is improving its ability to respond to incidents of all varieties. ***(PR)***

Missing swimmer recovered off Ritidian Beach

RITIDIAN BEACH, Guam—Coast Guard Sector Guam received notification from Guam Fire Department that two swimmers were in distress outside the reef at Ritidian Beach at 2:45 pm today. Sector Guam dispatched a Coast Guard Response Boat-Medium and an aircraft from Helicopter Sea Combat-Two Five (HSC-25) to assist Guam Fire Department and Guam Police Department with the search and rescue of the swimmers. After contacting the reporting party, the Coast Guard discovered that four swimmers were initially swept over the reef at Ritidian Beach and three of them were able to swim safely back to shore. Guam Fire rescue divers recovered the body of the missing swimmer.

For more information contact the Sector Guam Sector Duty Officer at 671-688-0871. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Office of Insular Affairs Director Nick Pula, and other CNMI and federal officials visit the CNMI SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative training program for Front Desk Clerk/Receptionist/Administrative job preparedness and skills training. From left: CNMI Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown, CNMI SHRM vice president Maria Luisa Ernest, OIA resident representative of the Jeff Schorr, CNMI SHRM president Debra Camacho, CNMI deputy secretary of Commerce Ivan Blanco, CNMI SHRM program director Frank Gibson, and ELEP grant coordinator and CNMI registrar Mark Rabauliman. In front are the trainees.

Pula visits FELD sub-grantee recipient

About a year ago, the Department of Commerce received a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs under the US Department of Interior for $1 million for the Labor Enhancement Program (ELEP) called the "Quick Employee Development Program" (QED). The categories under the grant included three programs: Tourism Hospitality, Labor and Agriculture & Aquaculture.

Director of Insular Affairs Nikolao Pula, along with CNMI Desk Officer Frank Taitano, Ombudsmen Pam Brown, and CNMI Field Representative for OIA Jeff Schorr paid a visit to the Society for Human Resources Management's trainees on Tuesday, June 26, 2012.

Pula, in his remarks to the trainees, expressed the importance of the trainees' success in completing the sessions and entering into the job market. He remarked to the trainees, "…your success in completing this training and entering into the job market is also a success for the Labor Enhancement Program for U.S. qualified employees".

On hand to welcome the honorable guest were SHRM president Debra Camacho, Mark Rabauliman, deputy secretary Ivan Blanco, and program manager, Frank Gibson.

Gibson informed Pula, that this was the third batch for his program and the largest (21 participants) to date. ELEP project coordinator and CNMI registrar Mark Rabauliman stated that the FELD program is on track and that all the sub-grantees are already on their second and third phases. He is currently tabulating surveys and will be reporting on progress performances by the end of this month.

"It is always a pleasure to have our grantor representatives visit our project sites, so as to showcase federal and local partnership in enhancing our community, especially with the challenge to fill the labor pool shortage for U.S. qualified workers," stated Rabauliman. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to the only person who knows the beat to my heart, Izeiah Walter Sambile Deleon Guerrero. May God continue to bless you as you grow another year older. Love, Mommy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Sarai Kaipat. May you have many more to come, enjoy your special day and may God bless you. From Randall, Mal, friends, and family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday Nenette. Greeting from Joseph, Micah, Inah, and the tropa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Birthday to Ben Jones Jr. May your day be filled with lots of blessings and love. Have a great one. We love you! From Tatum Mamet, Neng, and your Achugao and Maraflo family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Mama Chie. Greeting from Baby Ralph, Papa Laurence, and the tropa.

Business

Europe's bold rescue plan still awaiting details

BRUSSELS (AP)—Europe's leaders surprised skeptics with a bold plan to pump cash into troubled banks, reduce borrowing costs for Italy and Spain and stop forcing austerity on every government that needs aid.

Now their finance ministers have a week and a half to work out a lot of the details, and investors will be paying close attention.

Financial markets liked the broad outlines of the plans that emerged Friday from a meeting of the leaders of the 27 European Union countries.

Markets roared their approval after the EU leaders declared they would:

■ Centralize regulation of European banks and, if necessary, bail them out directly, instead of funneling loans through governments that already have too much debt.

■ Ease borrowing costs on Italy and Spain, the euro region's third- and fourth-largest economies.

■ Stop mandating painful budget cuts to every country in need of emergency financial aid.

■ Tie their budgets, currency and governments more tightly.

The decisions made at the EU summit in Brussels won't end the crisis that has gripped Europe for nearly three years. Plenty of questions remain about how the bank bailouts would work, whether there's enough money committed to rescue banks and governments and whether impoverished, indebted Greece will be forced out of the 17-nation euro club.

But for EU leaders who have consistently underwhelmed their exasperated publics and nervous financial markets, Friday's efforts marked a breakthrough.

The prime minister of Ireland—one of the five eurozone countries that have required emergency funds—said the plans marked a "seismic shift in European policy." British Prime Minister David Cameron said that "for the first time in some time we have actually seen steps ... to get ahead of the game."

There was an immediate sign that Europe's latest plan was easing fear in financial markets: The cost for the troubled government of Spain to borrow fell dramatically. The interest rate, or yield, on the country's 10-year bonds fell by more than half a percentage point, to 6.34 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average recorded its second-biggest gain of the year, and stocks advanced even further in Europe—in strong and weak countries alike. The benchmark stock index in Germany rose 4.3 percent, by far its best performance this year. Germany has the biggest economy in Europe, and a warm reaction there was a crucial sign of approval for the plan. Prices for oil and other commodities shot higher, another sign that the plan may remove a big barrier to a healthier economy.

David Kelly, chief global strategist at JPMorgan Funds, says financial markets have been slow to respond to good news about Europe, including an election Greece that empowered pro-euro leaders. That means markets could continue to rise, despite lingering problems.

"The point is, ugly is more than priced in," he said.

At first it looked like the summit would produce little more than a modest plan to stimulate growth in Europe. But Italy and Spain, whose borrowing costs have soared to dangerous levels, refused to sign off on the $150 billion spending plan unless something was done to ease their financial burdens.

After an all-night standoff, the leaders agreed to expand the use of Europe's bailout funds—and do so without imposing strict austerity measures on countries that are meeting existing pledges to control spending. The bailout money could be used to buy bonds to drive down a country's borrowing costs. Or it could be loaned directly to troubled banks, which EU leaders said would help break "the vicious cycle" in which weak banks and weak governments threaten to drag each other down.

AP

A shareholder closes his briefcase before a Bankia shareholders meeting in Valencia, Spain Friday, June 29, 2012. Bankia, SA, which crumbled under the weight of bad real estate loans and was recently nationalized, holds almost euros17 billion in state debt, or 5.5 percent of its total assets. It is one of several big banks that will need billions in rescue loans.

Brief relief, long-term questions on student loans

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Congress may have averted a doubling of interest rates on millions of new federal student loans, but the fix is only for a year, leaving students on edge over whether they'll face a similar increase next summer.

"It's scary," said Faith Nebergall, a student at Indiana University whose loans currently total upward of $20,000. "And it's unfair to kind of be kept in the dark as to how much money we owe."

Under the agreement, interest rates on new subsidized Stafford loans will remain at 3.4 percent. That's estimated to save 7.4 million students about $1,000 each on the average loan, which is usually paid off over 10 or more years.

In the short run, that means students can breathe a sigh of relief this summer. A year from now, however, those rates are set to rise to 6.8 percent. That automatic increase was approved by Congress when lawmakers signed off on a series of scheduled rate reductions five years ago.

"There are more struggling families and they need some assurances to feel OK about getting young people into and through college," said Kati Haycock, president of The Education Trust. "Congress aggravates everybody, creates lots of anxiety out there, and essentially gives us a one-year solution."

About $1.2 billion will be saved by limiting federal subsidies of Stafford loans to six years for students pursuing a bachelor's degree and three years for those completing an associate's degree.

Richard Vedder, director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity and an economics professor at Ohio University, said that could have the positive effect of encouraging more students to complete their degree in a timely manner, while also allowing some flexibility for students who work and have families and need more time to finish.

But he sees a negative impact down the road. Vedder argues that lower interest rates contribute to the desire to borrow money, which he says has the adverse effect of enabling schools to raise their tuition. Some students with poor academic records and for whom college might not be the best fight might be inclined to enroll anyway. That could aggravate problems in the labor market, where there are many unemployed and underemployed recent college graduates.

"It makes political sense, but not economic sense," Vedder said.

The price of college tuition has skyrocketed in recent decades. Between 1982 and 2007, tuition and fees increased 439 percent while the median family income rose 147 percent, according to a report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The price of in-state tuition at a public university has increased by more than 5 percent annually in the past 10 years. It jumped 15 percent between 2008 and 2010 alone.

Cuts to state education budgets have played a significant role in increasing those costs, particularly in recent years. How much influence the expansion of access to federal aid has played is less certain; many insist it plays none. An analysis this year by the American Council on Education concluded there is no evidence to suggest it has, and that any relationship between the two is incidental, not causal.

World Bank cancels $1.2 billion Bangladesh loan

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The World Bank has canceled a $1.2 billion loan for construction of a bridge in Bangladesh, saying it has credible evidence of corruption involving a Canadian engineering company.

The global lending agency said it did not receive a satisfactory response from the Bangladesh government after it raised the issue of corruption last year.

It said in a statement Friday that it has evidence pointing to "a high-level corruption conspiracy" among Bangladesh government officials, executives of Canadian engineering and construction giant SNC-Lavalin, and private individuals in connection with the planned 6.5-kilometer (4-mile) Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project.

Bangladesh Communications Minister Obaidul Quader called the World Bank's decision regrettable because the government's Anti-Corruption Commission was still investigating the allegations.

"Such a decision is unfortunate before the investigation is complete," he told reporters Saturday.

The bank said it earlier sent a team to Dhaka to explain its position and receive the government's response.

"The response has been unsatisfactory," it said.

The bank "cannot, should not, and will not turn a blind eye to evidence of corruption," it said.

Montreal-based SNC-Lavalin, one of the world's largest engineering and construction companies, has acknowledged making improper payments to agents to win contracts on two projects. An internal probe resulted in the resignation of its CEO and two other senior executives. The company's headquarters was searched by Canadian national police in April.

Bangladesh has been rated one of the world's most corrupt nations by Berlin-based Transparency International.

The World Bank loan, signed In April last year, was part of a funding package for construction of the $2.9 billion bridge, slated to be the country's longest.

Funding also was expected from the Asian Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Islamic Development Bank.

The World Bank first brought the corruption allegations in October last year.

Eastern US storm hobbles Netflix and Instagram

NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix, Instagram and Pinterest are using Twitter and Facebook to update subscribers after violent storms across the eastern U.S. caused server outages for hours.

Netflix and Pinterest restored service by Saturday afternoon.

Instagram used its Facebook fan page to communicate with users of its photo-sharing service. It posted a message on Saturday morning that blamed the electrical storm for the outage and explained that its engineers were working to restore service.

Still, many Instagram's users were searching for answers. "Instagram" was the top search term on Google on Saturday, according to Google Trends.

Netflix, Pinterest and Instagram are customers of Amazon Inc.'s web services division. The unit provides web services and data storage facilities that are commonly used for "cloud computing".

Amazon spokeswoman Kay Kinton told The Associated Press in an email that the storm cut power to some of company's operations. Service has been restored for most customers, Kinton said.

Netflix, a video streaming service, said on Twitter that subscribers should reconnect if they still experienced problems.

The online scrapbook service Pinterest says employees are working to fix remaining issues that may affect performance.

The Friday evening storms knocked out power for millions of people.

Nation

For Obama, a transcendent win still not assured

WASHINGTON (AP)—Presidents live in a world of wins and losses quickly forgotten. Rarely are they presented with the kind of defining moment that President Barack Obama experienced when the Supreme Court upheld his health care law.

It's one that will transcend his presidency, change America's social safety net and shape how he is likely to be remembered.

Then there's the catch.

If Obama does not win a second term in November, he risks losing both the law and the core of his legacy. Republican Mitt Romney will try to gut the law and impose something else. All the rest of what Obama accomplishes will fall under the dimmer view of history assigned to one-term presidents.

Immediate attention isn't on the lasting consequences. Right now, the campaign retains its focus and remains a biting contest between two men with vastly different visions about how to fix the economy.

Obama

Obama's re-election message is not expected to differ because of the ruling. But his presidency has changed.

Where others failed, he succeeded, pushing through a plan to get basic health coverage to millions of uninsured people in the richest nation on earth.

"Obamacare," as critics derisively call it and supporters adoringly do, is his Medicare, his Social Security.

The high court ensured that the law would crown Obama's legacy. He did it with no Republican help in Congress, with half the country against him, with a Supreme Court led by a conservative chief justice who produced the surprising, deciding vote to rescue his law.

"If he wins re-election, he's got one huge marker down that he can build upon," said Bill Daley, Obama's former chief of staff.

Daley said if Obama achieves a long-term debt deal on immigration or brokers an energy plan as well, and avoids major mess-ups for eight years, "then that has the potential to be a very significant presidency."

Douglas Brinkley of Rice University, among the presidential historians who have met with Obama for dinners, said Obama wants to be remembered on the scale of Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson.

Now, Brinkley said, Obama is poised to go down as one of the leading progressive presidents for delivering on a health care promise that has eluded so many, for so long.

"It's a bit of confounding presidency," Brinkley said. "It always seems like Obama is about to flip off the rails. And then lo and behold, he's back on top again."

And if he loses to Romney? "It all changes," Brinkley said. "One-term presidents have a hard time building tremendous legacies."

The law is built around a mandate that people who can afford to buy health insurance must do so to help rein in the costs of coverage for everyone. Overall, the legislation is unpopular with the public, although individual parts of it are not.

Eastern US storms kill 13, cut power to millions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions across the mid-Atlantic region sweltered Saturday in the aftermath of violent storms that pummeled the eastern U.S. with high winds and downed trees, killing at least 13 people and leaving 3 million without power during a heat wave.

Power officials said the outages wouldn't be repaired for several days to a week, likening the damage to a serious hurricane. Emergencies were declared in Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, the District of Columbia and Virginia, where Gov. Bob McDonnell said the state had its largest non-hurricane outage in history, as more storms threatened. "This is a very dangerous situation," the governor said.

In West Virginia, 232 Amtrak passengers were stranded Friday night on a train that was blocked on both sides by trees that fell on the tracks, spending about 20 hours at a rural station before buses picked them up. And in Illinois, storm damage forced the transfer of dozens of maximum-security, mentally ill prisoners from one prison to another.

In some Virginia suburbs of Washington, emergency 911 call centers were out of service; residents were told to call local police and fire departments. Huge trees fell across streets in Washington, leaving cars crunched up next to them, and onto the fairway at the AT&T National golf tournament in Maryland. Cell phone and Internet service was spotty, gas stations shut down and residents were urged to conserve water until sewage plants returned to power.

The outages were especially dangerous because they left the region without air conditioning in an oppressive heat. Temperatures soared to highs in the mid-90s in Baltimore and Washington, where it had hit 104 on Friday.

"I've called everybody except for the state police to try to get power going," said Karen Fryer, resident services director at two assisted living facilities in Washington. The facilities had generator power, but needed to go out for portable air conditioning units, and Fryer worried about a few of her 100 residents who needed backup power for portable oxygen.

The stranded train passengers spent more than 20 hours on the train after they stopped around 11 p.m. on Friday at a station near rural Prince, W.Va.

Brooke Richart, a 26-year-old teacher from New York City, said she was among the stuck passengers. To pass the time, she read half a book, talked to the people around her and took walks outside the train.

"We tried to walk up the side of the mountain to see if anyone could get cell service. We didn't have cell service the entire time we were down there," she said.

Amtrak spokesman Steve Kulm said the passengers were picked up by buses, which departed by 8:20 p.m. Saturday. The buses will travel to the stations along the original route, dropping off passengers along the way.

The stranded passengers on the train bound from New York to Chicago had lights, air conditioning and food the entire time, Kulm said. He wasn't aware of any injuries or health problems.

Richart was traveling to her hometown of Cincinnati. She said the ride had mostly been smooth, with a few delays, before they stopped in Prince. The storm had already passed through by the time they stopped.

National Guard helps patrol Colorado fire damage

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Making gains against the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history, crews kept a wary eye on weather Saturday that was becoming warmer and drier as National Guard troops were deployed to help local police get things back to normal.

"The weather is making progress in a bad direction. Hotter, drier, with a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Winds will shift from one direction to another," said Incident Commander Rich Harvey.

The 26-square-mile Waldo Canyon fire was 45 percent contained by Saturday afternoon. It was one of many burning across the West, including eight in Utah and a fast-growing blaze in Montana that forced residents in several small communities to leave.

About 1,200 personnel and six helicopters were fighting the Waldo Canyon fire, and authorities said they were confident they had built good fire lines in many areas to stop flames from spreading.

"Crews made progress all around the fire,'" said Harvey, who was cautiously optimistic. "The fire potential is still very, very high. It's extreme and explosive."

Two bodies were found in the ruins of one house, one of almost 350 destroyed in this city 60 miles south of Denver. The victims' names haven't been released. Police Chief Pete Carey said Saturday afternoon the approximately 10 people who had been unaccounted for had now been located.

Police did not expect to discover other victims in the rubble.

More than 150 National Guard soldiers and airmen helped Colorado Springs police staff roadblocks and patrol streets. Carey said Saturday the presence of military personnel will allow his department to resume normal police work in the rest of the city.

About 10,000 people remain evacuated, down from more than 30,000 at the fire's peak.

The mood was light as evacuees filtered back into an unscathed neighborhood of winding streets and split-level homes within an easy walk of the burned area.

High school counselor Pat Allen and her husband, Vic Miller, were all smiles less than five minutes after returning to their tri-level home on a quiet cul-de-sac.

"I'm just wanting to kiss the house, dance with the neighbors", Allen said.

Their house didn't smell of smoke. Their electricity was out for two or three days but the popsicles in their freezer didn't melt, she said.

Around the corner, retiree Nina Apsey wandered in search of eight small, solar-powered lights that somebody had taken from her yard during the evacuation.

"I'm assuming it was vandalism," she said.

Prized possessions still piled into the Hyundai sport-utility vehicle in her garage included caribou antlers and antelope and deer head mounts. As flames bore down, she'd also taken a small ceramic cowboy statue. Her late husband taught her how to hunt. He resembled the cowboy, she said.

She wasn't too perturbed about her missing lights because nothing else was touched.

"If that's the worst that happened to me, I'm blessed," she said.

On Sunday people whose homes were burned will be allowed to tour the affected areas. Authorities said some residences would be cordoned off with police tape, and people would not be allowed beyond that point.

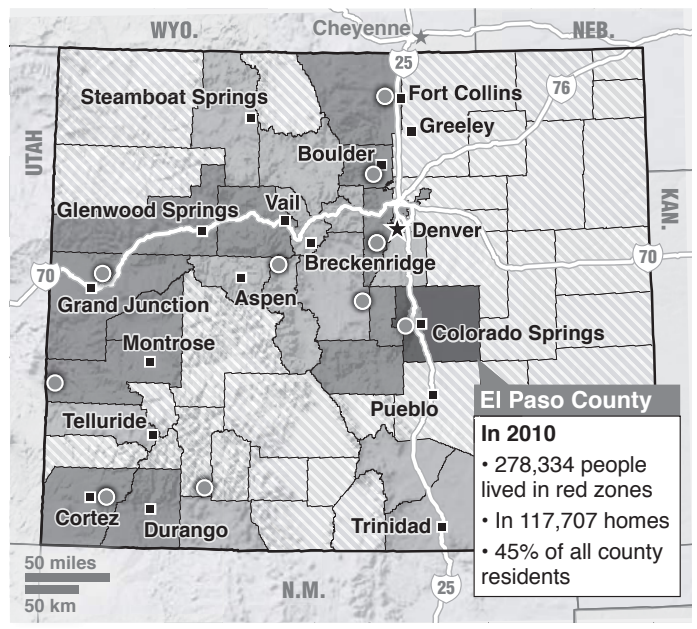
Building in risky terrain

About one in four Colorado homes is built in a fire risk "red zone," an area at risk for the most dangerous types of wildfires: fast-moving, fed by dry alpine terrain. A look at people living in red zones, by county:

Residents living in fire zones

0 to 4,350 | 4,351 to 18,000 | 18,001 to 31,000 | More

Major fires in 2012 (more than 200 acres, or 000 hectares)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Springs Gazette
Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2012 MCT

ACROSS THE NATION

Report: Ex-PSU president OK'd not reporting abuse

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Emails show Penn State's former president Graham Spanier agreed not to take allegations of sex abuse against ex-assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky to authorities but worried university officials would be "vulnerable" for failing to report it, a news organization has reported. The emails followed a graduate assistant's 2001 report he saw Sandusky sexually assaulting a boy in the team locker room shower, CNN reported. The existence of the emails was first reported earlier this month by NBC. The emails show athletic director Tim Curley and retired vice president Gary Schultz intended to report the allegation, then reconsidered. Spanier responded that he was "supportive" of their plan, but he worried they might "become vulnerable for not having reported it."

NY school bus monitor 'fine' with bully punishment

NEW YORK (AP)—The upstate New York school bus monitor who was bullied by four seventh-graders says she's satisfied that they're being suspended for a year. Speaking one day after the boys' punishment was announced, Karen Klein told The Associated Press on Saturday that she wants to meet with the boys who tormented her. "Oh yes, I would like to talk to them!" said the 68-year-old, speaking from her home in Rochester. "I want to ask them why they did it." What the four boys did was captured on video, mercilessly taunting Klein as she sat on the bus, gradually breaking down in tears.

Head-on crash in Wyoming kills 5, injures 4

THERMOPOLIS, Wyo. (AP)—A car returning from a Boy Scout camp veered into an oncoming lane and slammed head-on into a motorhome Saturday, killing five people and injuring four others, the Wyoming Highway Patrol said. All four people in the car and a 3-year-old passenger in the motor home were killed in the collision on Highway 120 in northcentral Wyoming, Sgt. Stephen Townsend said. The other four people in the motor home were injured in the 10 a.m. MDT crash in Hot Springs County, but their conditions were not immediately available.

Asia

New Hong Kong leader takes office amid discontent

HONG KONG (AP)—Chinese President Hu Jintao was interrupted by a pro-democracy heckler Sunday at the swearing in of Hong Kong's new leader, an incident underscoring rising tensions between Beijing and the semiautonomous territory 15 years after it returned to Chinese rule.

Leung

Tens of thousands of people are expected to take to the streets later in the day in an annual protest that is an occasion for ordinary people to air their grievances over a range of issues. There is rising public discontent over widening inequality and lack of full democracy in the southern Chinese financial center.

Self-made millionaire Leung Chun-ying became Hong Kong's third chief executive on the 15th anniversary of China regaining control of the city after more than a century of British colonial control. There were sporadic scuffles between demonstrators and police outside the convention center where his inauguration took place.

A demonstrator who tried to interrupt Hu as he began his address was bundled away by security officials. The man, one of the guests invited to the inauguration, waved a small flag and yelled slogans calling for China's leaders to reverse their condemnation of the brutal June 4, 1989 crackdown on protesters in Tiananmen Square. He also called for an end to one-party rule in China before security agents swiftly pounced. Hu took no notice and continued to read his speech but the incident marred what was supposed to be a carefully orchestrated visit intended to emphasize strengthening ties between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Leung, a 57-year-old police officer's son who became a millionaire, replaces career bureaucrat Donald Tsang, who took office in 2005 and is barred from another term.

Leung takes over Hong Kong's top job amid swelling public anger over a yawning income gap, skyrocketing property prices and rising unease about mainland China's growing influence on the semiautonomous region.

"We will focus our energies on major and pressing issues," said Leung, who outlined plans to even out Hong Kong's widening inequality. He vowed, for example, to provide more affordable housing and land for property development, though he also said "there is no need for a major reversal of policy."

But Leung could find it hard to push through his social reforms because he takes office with an approval rating far lower than his predecessors, reflecting not only mounting public frustration but also a recent corruption scandal involving illegal additions on his mansion.

Vietnamese protest over islands dispute with China

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A group of Vietnamese marched through the capital's streets shouting "Down with China!" in a rare protest Sunday following growing tensions over disputed territory in the South China Sea.

About 200 people chanted in the rain, some waving flags and holding signs, as they walked through central Hanoi toward the Chinese Embassy. Police stopped traffic and did not attempt to quash the event, but the area near the embassy was cordoned off.

The protest follows China's recent announcement that it will open nine oil and gas lots for development to international bidders, even though the area overlaps with Vietnam's current exploration contracts.

"We are very angry with China's recent offer to look for oil inside Vietnam's territory," said Phuong Bich, 53, who was arrested three times last year during similar demonstrations that were broken up. "We urge the government to take action."

Hanoi says the area where the China National Offshore Oil Corp., or CNOOC, has identified lies within Vietnam's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone. State-owned PetroVietnam has encouraged foreign companies to ignore China's offer and says it will continue working on contracts signed with ExxonMobil, Russia's Gazprom, India's ONGC and PetroVietnam affiliate PVEP.

Rhetoric between the two communist neighbors has become increasingly hostile in recent weeks. Beijing's Defense Ministry said it has "battle-ready" patrols protecting its interests in the South China Sea and warned Vietnam to back off its reported aerial patrols of the disputed Spratly Islands.

Contested areas of the South China Sea are a long-standing source of animosity among claimants from Vietnam, China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei. Disputed territory straddles important international shipping lanes and is believed to be teeming with fish and rich in oil and gas reserves. Some fear the brewing tensions could result in violence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Key figure in China's political tumult quits post

BEIJING (AP)—An ex-police chief whose shocking visit to a U.S. consulate led to the fall of a prominent Chinese politician has resigned from the national legislature, state media reported Saturday, a sign that he might be a step closer to formal arrest and trial. Wang Lijun, the former police chief of south China's Chongqing metropolis, asked to resign from the National People's Congress, and the standing committee of the Chongqing People's Congress accepted his resignation Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Wang has been under investigation since he visited the U.S. Consulate in nearby Chengdu city in February. He is thought to have divulged information unfavorable to Bo Xilai, then Chongqing's party chief.

Pakistan: US drone strike kills 8 militants

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani intelligence officials say a U.S. drone strike has killed eight suspected militants in the North Waziristan tribal region near the Afghan border. They say missiles fired from an unmanned drone struck a house in Dre Nishter village early Sunday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The officials said the house was being used by militants loyal to commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur, and some foreigners were also among the dead.

Philippine troops kill 13 communist rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine army says it has killed at least 13 communist rebels during two separate clashes in the biggest loss for the guerrillas in a single day this year. The army says two guerrillas were killed and one was captured in a clash early Saturday between soldiers and about a dozen guerrillas in Zambales province west of Manila. It says at least 11 were killed in a second encounter with 15 guerrillas in Quezon province southeast of the capital. The military says villagers informed troops of the presence of New People's Army guerrillas near their communities. More than a dozen rebel firearms were recovered.

World

Egypt's new president begins struggle for power

CAIRO (AP)—Islamist Mohammed Morsi became Egypt's first freely elected president on Saturday, launching his four-year term with a potentially dangerous quest to wrest back from the military the full authority of his office.

AP
In this image released by the Egyptian President, Egyptian Field Marshal Gen. Hussein Tantawi, left, presents the "shield of the Armed Forces" – the Egyptian military's highest honor, to President Mohammed Morsi, right, at a handover following his inauguration, at a military base east of Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, June 30, 2012.

The outcome of the impending battle between Egypt's first civilian president and its powerful generals will redraw the country's political landscape after 60 years of de facto military rule.

If Morsi succeeds, the Muslim Brotherhood will likely be emboldened to press ahead with realizing the longtime goal of making Egypt an Islamic state. Otherwise the military—which has been reluctant to give up the power it assumed after Hosni Mubarak's ouster—will continue its stranglehold on the country for years, maybe decades, to come.

For Egypt's estimated 82 million people, the prospect of a continuing battle between the military and the Brotherhood, the country's largest political group, will only prolong the political instability that has rocked their nation since Mubarak's ouster last year. Egyptians have seen the initial euphoria following the revolution turn into a wave of pessimism amid a declining economy, rising crime and a seemingly endless wave of protests, strikes and sit-ins.

The yearning for stability was expressed by two prominent figures.

Nobel Peace Laureate Mohamed ElBaradei, also Egypt's top pro-democracy advocate, tweeted that it was time to resolve the thorny issues of the new constitution, the president's powers and legislation. "Now, the time for building has come, to achieve the revolution's goals," he said.

Syria conference leaves open Assad question

GENEVA (AP)—An international conference on Saturday accepted a U.N.-brokered peace plan that calls for the creation of a transitional government in Syria, but at Russia's insistence the compromise agreement left the door open to Syria's president being part of it.

The U.S. backed away from insisting that the plan should explicitly call for President Bashar Assad to have no role in a new Syrian government, hoping the concession would encourage Russia to put greater pressure on its longtime ally to end the violent crackdown that the opposition says has claimed more than 14,000 lives.

But even with Russia's most explicit statement of support yet for a political transition in Syria, it is far from certain that the plan will have any real effect in curbing the violence. A key phrase in the agreement requires that the transitional governing body "shall be formed on the basis of mutual consent," effectively giving the present government and the opposition veto power over each other.

Syrian opposition figures immediately rejected any notion of sharing in a transition with Assad, though the agreement also requires security force chiefs and services to have the confidence of the people. Assad's government had no immediate reaction, but he has repeatedly said his government has a responsibility to eliminate terrorists and will not accept any non-Syrian model of governance.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton insisted on Saturday that Assad would still have to go, saying it is now "incumbent on Russia and China to show Assad the writing on the wall" and help force his departure."

"There is a credible alternative to the Assad regime," she said. "What we have done here is to strip away the fiction that he and those with blood on their hands can stay in power."

Kofi Annan was appointed the special envoy in February, and in March he submitted a six-point peace plan that he said the Assad regime accepted. It led to the April 12 cease-fire agreement that failed to hold.

Moscow had refused to back a provision that would call for Assad to step aside, insisting that outsiders cannot order a political solution for Syria and accusing the West of ignoring the darker side of the Syrian opposition. The opposition has made clear it would not take part in a government in which Assad still held power.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran: We will 'confront' new EU sanctions

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The governor of Iran's central bank says his country will not remain "passive" before a new EU embargo on the country's oil sector, adding that Tehran has enough hard currency reserves to meet its import needs. The Sunday report by the semiofficial Mehr news agency quotes Mahmoud Bahmani as saying Iran will "confront" hostile policies. The remark is the first reaction by a senior Tehran official on the day that an EU embargo on Iranian oil goes into effect. The EU measures are intended to pressure Iran over fears that it is developing nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charges.

Mexico could return old ruling party to power

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A single party dominated Mexico for most of the past century, and its loss 12 years ago proved to many that the country was finally a democracy. Now the nation's voters seem ready to bring it back to power in Sunday's presidential election. The Institutional Revolutionary Party, led by telegenic former Mexico State Gov. Enrique Pena Nieto, has held a strong lead throughout the campaign, and also seems poised to retake at least a plurality in Congress. The party has been bolstered by voter fatigue with a sluggish economy and the sharp escalation of a drug war that has killed roughly 50,000 Mexicans over the past six years. The desire for change suddenly works to benefit the party known as the PRI that ran Mexico from 1929 to 2000.

Focus

Sex grooming cases spark racial tensions

By GREGORY KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Wednesday, May 16, 2012 photo, pedestrians walk past town hall in Rochdale, England. The story of the abused Rochdale girls is tragic by any measure, but it has also become explosive.

AP

ROCHDALE, England (AP)—She was lonely in the way only an adolescent girl can be: No friends, no boyfriend, not much of a relationship with her parents. So she felt special when a man decades older paid attention to her, bought her trinkets, gave her free booze.

Then he took her to a dingy room above a kebab shop and said she had to give something back in return. His demands grew: Not just sex with him, but with his friends. It went on for years, until police charged nine men with running a sex ring with underage girls.

The story of Girl A, as she became known in court, is tragic by any measure, but it has also become explosive. Because there is no getting around it: The girls are white, and the men who used them as sex toys are Asian Muslims, mostly Pakistanis raised in Britain. And it's not just Rochdale—roughly a dozen other cases of Asian Muslim men accused of grooming young white girls for sex are slowly moving to trial across northern England, involving up to several hundred girls in all.

In today's Britain, which prides itself on being a tolerant and integrated society, the case has stripped away the skin to expose the racial sores festering beneath. It is also feeding an already raw anger against the country's Asian Muslim minority, in a movement led by far right groups at a time when the economy is stalled.

"You can't get away from the race element," says prosecutor Nazir Afzal, a British Muslim with family roots in Pakistan who ended several years of official indifference to the girls' plight and finally brought the perpetrators to trial. "It's the elephant in the room."

■ ■ ■ ■

From a distance, Rochdale looks like a picture-perfect English city, with the 800-year-old Parish Church of St. Chad perched high above the streets, and the Victorian Gothic Town Hall just below, its clock tower resembling the one that houses London's Big Ben.

Up close the flaws become clear. Like missing teeth in an otherwise sparkling smile, a fair number of downtown shops are boarded up, or have been turned into pawn shops or dueling "pound shops" where almost all items cost 1 pound ($1.60) or less.

The Pakistani community started to grow half a century ago, when the town's cottons mills were flourishing. The newcomers, most of them from poor rural villages, were drawn by the promise of steady jobs and a chance to educate their children in English schools.

A number of mosques became part of the skyline, particularly the showcase Golden Mosque, winner of several design awards. Today, Muslim men wearing beards and decorated caps and women in black robes and veils are a constant presence on the downtown streets.

Nearly 1 million Pakistanis live in England—far more than in any other European country—with about 25,000 settled in the greater Manchester area that includes Rochdale. The government's equality commission reports that more than half of the Pakistanis in Britain live in poverty, far more than the general population, with just under 75 percent having no formal savings.

They face hard times now. The closed shops are signs of a double-dip recession that has hit northern England harder than the more affluent south, which includes London, with its financial district and well-to-do suburbs.

The mills have long since closed; the local newspaper trumpets gloom and doom: A tripling in the number of homeless, a sharp rise in youth unemployment, more people seeking housing benefits.

Even the local McDonald's, long a fixture in the town center, has moved out.

It was in this environment that Girl A lost control one summer night in 2008.

After drinking heavily, the 15-year-old went to the kebab shop in nearby Heywood where she had first met her "boyfriend." She started screaming and busting the place up. When police were called, she told them she had been raped—repeatedly—and offered up her semen-stained underwear as proof.

Greater Manchester Police detectives concluded the girl, who was below the age of consent, was telling the truth, but Crown Prosecution Service lawyers recommended against pressing criminal charges, reasoning that the jury might not believe a troubled, hard-drinking, sexually active young girl. The case was quietly dropped after an 11-month inquiry.

The abuse intensified. The ring of predators grew; the circle of victims widened. Eventually there would be at least 47 victims or witnesses.

The girl was driven around at night, forced to have sex with more and more men, sometimes up to five a day, in cars or restaurant backrooms or grubby apartments. The men threatened her if she complained. There seemed to be no escape.

She was trapped in a secret world of sex acts that took place late at night when most people in Rochdale were safely tucked away in their homes.

■ ■ ■ ■

The Rochdale men do not fit the classic profile for sex offenders in Britain—the majority of pedophilia crimes are committed by white men who target boys and girls via the Internet. However, there is a consensus among prosecutors, police, social workers and leading national politicians that "street grooming," which happened in Rochdale, is largely dominated by Asian men.

Ella Cockbain, a University College of London crime science specialist, says research shows that mostly Asian men make up the big groups of offenders who work together. She chooses her words carefully because the sample size is small and the topic sensitive.

"There are definite patterns emerging that would be foolish to ignore," she says.

Mohammed Shafiq, a British Pakistani who directs the Ramadhan Foundation in Rochdale, has angered some in his own community by suggesting that police at first did not pursue the case aggressively for fear of appearing racist because of an obsession "with the doctrine of political correctness."

Shafiq says that a "tiny minority" of Pakistani men feel white girls are worthless and immoral—and can be abused with impunity.

"They know if they took someone from the Asian community, it pretty quickly is going to be found out," he says. "But those white girls are available, so they think they can get away with it."

The men in the Rochdale sex ring were remarkable only in their ordinariness. They were part of British life, but on the fringes—the sort of people most Britons don't really notice when they pass them on the street.

Many were taxi drivers, accustomed to working all-night shifts with long down time between fares, and they frequented the late-night kebab takeout shops offering familiar lamb, chicken and falafel dishes. Their cab stands and the kebab shops were often the only businesses that remained open after the bars closed.

Most of the men were first or second generation Pakistanis raised mainly in Britain. Only one had faced previous sex charges: Ringleader Shabir Ahmed, at 59 the oldest in the group, who was accused of repeatedly raping a young girl in a separate case. Ahmed, known to the girls as "Daddy," was convicted of 30 counts of rape in that case last week.

Some of the men had families and small businesses. The ring included Abdul Rauf, 43, who would later claim to have experience as a Muslim preacher, which local Islamic leaders dismiss as a total fabrication. A few had ongoing contacts with local politicians.

The men were neither affluent nor dirt poor. They lived outwardly stable lives but had few obvious prospects for advancement.

They were finally brought to justice after health workers reported a large increase in the number of underage girls in the Rochdale area claiming to have suffered sexual abuse. The next year, Afzal, the new regional chief of the Crown Prosecution Service, reversed the earlier decision by prosecutors and decided to press the case in court, with Girl A at its core.

"It was a no-brainer," Afzal told the Associated Press. "She was immensely credible. And the police now had evidence of a wide network."

Eleven men were charged with offenses ranging from rape to conspiracy, and police suspect more were involved. The men had such psychological power over the girls that even during the trial, one girl talked of a defendant as her boyfriend.

Parliament has launched an inquiry based in part on reports that the abuse is far more widespread than originally thought. Afzal said his office is handling roughly a dozen other similar cases, including one that involves 13 men accused of operating a sex ring with 24 girls.

Afzal says that as a Muslim he is sickened by the crimes.

"Rape and alcohol and abuse are not part of Islam," he says. "Just because they have a beard and go to the mosque doesn't make them good Muslims."

■ ■ ■ ■

As the Rochdale trial reached court, the issue of race and religion burst into the open.

One far-right protester carried a sign making reference to the meat favored by many observant Muslims because it meets strict religious guidelines. "Our girls are not Halal meat," the sign read.

Inside the court, Ahmed, a key defendant, fought back hard. He accused the all-white jury of racism. He accused one girl of thinking whites were superior, and denigrated them all as greedy money seekers. And he accused white society of neglecting its girls and tolerating, even encouraging, bad behavior.

"You white people train them in sex and drinking, so when they come to us they are fully trained," he said.

The jury found nine men guilty and set two free. Judge Gerald Clifton articulated what many felt but were reluctant to say out loud when he accused the men of treating white girls as worthless because "they were not of your community or religion." Then he sentenced them to a total of 77 years in prison.

The May verdict further polarized Rochdale. Pakistanis were horrified at the stigma on their community and enraged that the men claimed to be Muslim.

"They are playing the Muslim card, pretending they are good Muslims, but they are not," says Irfan Chishti, who runs an educational program at one of the town's mosques. "This was a great sin under Islam. If Sharia law was in place, the punishment would be very severe."

Even while he and other leaders of the Rochdale Council of Mosques were discussing the case, about 40 protesters from the far-right British National Party held an unauthorized rally on the nearby Town Hall steps. The far right has seized on the case, claiming that some British Pakistanis follow a code they believe is practiced in parts of the Islamic world that allows men to have sex with girls under 16.

Louis Kushnick, founder of the race relations resource center at the University of Manchester, said it has become convenient for white residents—including those beyond the far-right movement—to blame Muslims for the sex crimes.

"You hear people talking about this, and it becomes tied to Islam," he says. "People say they are Muslim men, they see women as inferior, they have contempt for white women, so it has nothing to do with the rest of us."

That view overlooks all the problems that left the girls vulnerable in the first place, he says, citing a deficient school system and a government-backed child care regime riddled with neglect and abuse. And he says the prolonged economic downturn has intensified resentments, with whites and Asians competing for the same "crap" jobs.

"Blaming the Muslims lets us avoid addressing these questions," he says. "Once we blame `The Other,' we think we have an explanation that makes sense."

Many in Rochdale are wary about discussing the case. Graduate student Heather Eyre, 25, says the trial has badly divided the city.

"It shouldn't have mattered that they are Pakistani," she says of the abusers. "But it's stirred up hatred. Some say they should be deported, and some parts of the Asian community say the jury was racist. Then the far-right groups came in... this case has been good for the English Defense League."

■ ■ ■ ■

The girl who first told police about the abuse, now a young woman of 19, has moved out of the area. In a brief pooled interview before she withdrew from the public eye, she refused to call the crimes against her racial in nature, but said she was shocked Muslims would commit such acts.

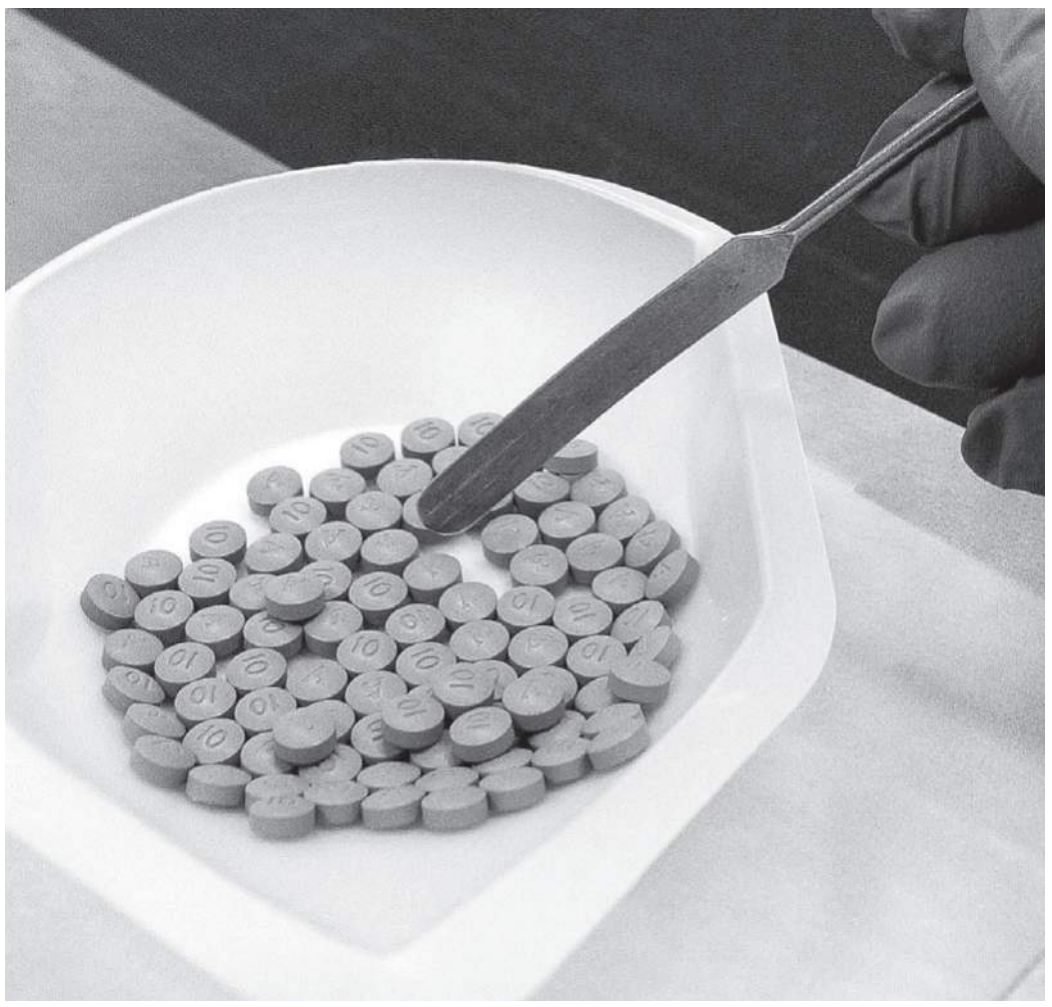
She said that in 2008, when the grooming began, there was no awareness of this type of crime involving Asian men and white girls.

"Now it's going on everywhere," she said. "You think of Muslim men as religious and family-minded and just nice people. You don't think...I don't know...You just don't think they'd do things like that."

When the abuse started, she said, she felt anger and shame, then became resigned and, finally, numb.

Health & Fitness

FDA clears first new weight-loss pill in 13 years



AP

This photo provided by Food and Drug Administration shows Arena Pharmaceutical's anti-obesity pill Belviq. The Food and Drug Administration has approved Belviq, the first new prescription drug for long-term weight loss to enter the U.S. market in over a decade.

By MATTHEW PERRONE
AP HEALTH WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration has approved Arena Pharmaceutical's anti-obesity pill Belviq, the first new prescription drug for long-term weight loss to enter the U.S. market in over a decade.

Despite only achieving modest weight loss in clinical studies, the drug appeared safe enough to win the FDA's endorsement, amid calls from doctors for new weight-loss treatments.

The agency cleared the pill Wednesday for adults who are obese or are overweight with at least one medical complication, such as diabetes or high cholesterol. The drug should be used in combination with a healthy diet and exercise.

Obesity Society President Patrick O'Neil said he's encouraged by the drug's approval because it underscores the notion that lifestyle changes alone are not enough to treat obesity.

"This is good news because it tells us that the FDA is indeed treating obesity seriously," said O'Neil, who teaches at Medical University of South Carolina and was the lead researcher on several studies of Belviq. "On the other hand, it's not the answer to the problem - or even a big part of the answer."

Even if the effects of Belviq are subtle, experts say it could be an important first step in developing new treatments that attack the underlying causes of obesity.

"The way these things tend to work is you have some people who do extremely well and other people don't lose any weight at all. But if we had 10 medicines that were all different and worked like this, we would have a real field," said Dr. Louis Aronne, director of the weight loss program at Weill-Cornell Medical College.

The FDA denied approval for Arena's drug in 2010 after scientists raised concerns about tumors that developed in animals studied with the drug. The company resubmitted the drug with additional data earlier this year, and the FDA said there was little risk of tumors in humans.

Arena and its partner Eisai Inc. of Woodcliff Lake, N.J., expect to launch the drug in early 2013.

With U.S. obesity rates nearing 35 percent of the adult population, many doctors have called on the FDA to approve new weight loss treatments.

But a long line of prescription weight loss offerings have been associated with safety problems, most notably the fen-phen combination, which was linked to heart valve damage in 1997. The cocktail of phentermine and fenfluramine was a popular weight loss combination prescribed by doctors, though it was never approved by the FDA.

In a rare move, the FDA explicitly stated in a press release that Belviq "does not appear to activate" a chemical pathway that was linked to the heart problems seen with fen-phen.

The FDA said the drug acts on a different chemical pathway in the brain, which is believed to reduce appetite by boosting feelings of satiety and fullness.

Belviq is one of three experimental weight-loss drugs whose developers have been trying for a second time to win approval, after the FDA shot them all down in 2010 or early 2011 because of serious potential side effects.

Vivus Inc.'s Qnexa is thought to be the most promising of the drugs, achieving the most weight loss. But the FDA has delayed a decision on that pill until July.

Shares of San Diego-based Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc. jumped $2.54, or 28.7 percent, to close at $11.39. Shares of Mountain View, Calif.-based Vivus rose $1.94, or 7.4 percent, to $28.33. Shares of Orexigen Therapeutics Inc., the third drugmaker with an obesity pill before the FDA, rose 20 percent to close at $4.92.

Arena's studies showed that patients taking Belviq, known generically as lorcaserin, had modest weight loss. On average patients lost just 3 to 3.7 percent of their starting body weight over a year. About 47 percent of patients without diabetes lost at least 5 percent of their weight or more, which was enough to meet FDA standards for effectiveness. By comparison, average weight loss with Qnexa is 11 percent, with more than 83 percent of patients losing 5 percent of their weight or more.

The FDA said patients should stop taking Belviq after three months if they fail to lose 5 percent of their body weight. Patients are unlikely to see any significant weight loss by staying with the drug.

Side effects with the drug include depression, migraine and memory lapses.

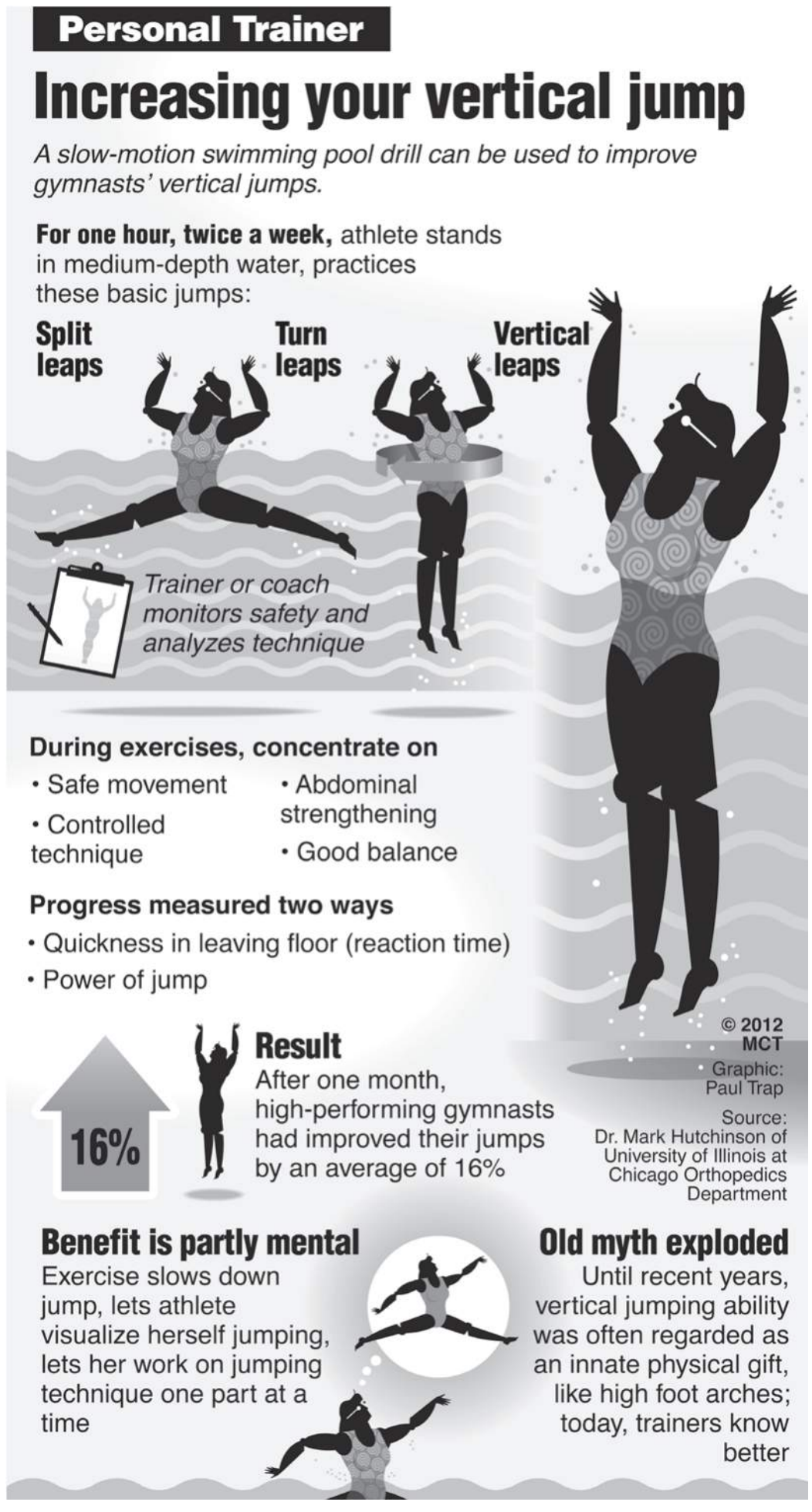
In May a panel of expert advisers to the FDA voted 18-4 to recommend approval of Arena's drug, concluding that its benefits "outweigh the potential risks when used long term" in overweight and obese people.

Experts say the challenge of weight loss drug development lies in safely turning off one of the body's fundamental directives: to eat enough food to maintain its current weight.

While several drugs are available for short-term weight loss, until Wednesday there was only one FDA-approved prescription drug for long-term weight loss: Xenical from Roche, which is seldom prescribed because of unpleasant digestive side effects and modest weight loss. Belviq is the first new prescription drug approved to treat obesity since Xenical's approval 13 years ago.

Other safety failures for diet pills have continued to pile up in recent years.

Four years ago Sanofi-Aventis SA discontinued studies of its highly anticipated pill Acomplia due to psychiatric side effects, including depression and suicidal thoughts. In 2010, Abbott Laboratories withdrew its drug Meridia after a study showed it increased heart attack and stroke.


Personal Trainer
Increasing your vertical jump
A slow-motion swimming pool drill can be used to improve gymnasts' vertical jumps.
For one hour, twice a week, athlete stands in medium-depth water, practices these basic jumps:
Split leaps
Turn leaps
Vertical leaps
Trainer or coach monitors safety and analyzes technique
During exercises, concentrate on
• Safe movement
• Controlled technique
• Abdominal strengthening
• Good balance
Progress measured two ways
• Quickness in leaving floor (reaction time)
• Power of jump
16%
Result
After one month, high-performing gymnasts had improved their jumps by an average of 16%
© 2012 MCT
Graphic: Paul Trap
Source: Dr. Mark Hutchinson of University of Illinois at Chicago Orthopedics Department
Benefit is partly mental
Exercise slows down jump, lets athlete visualize herself jumping, lets her work on jumping technique one part at a time
Old myth exploded
Until recent years, vertical jumping ability was often regarded as an innate physical gift, like high foot arches; today, trainers know better

Life & Style

Victoria Justice looks to create her own sound

NEW YORK (AP)—Victoria Justice recently dropped a soundtrack for her hit Nickelodeon series "Victorious," but she's also in the process of developing her own sound as a solo act.

"I want to write music that's going to appeal to everyone," Justice said in a recent interview. "As far as production, I don't think I've quite found my sound yet ... I want to work with producers who are unique and have a different sound."

Justice, 19, says she's unsure when she'll release her own material, but "Victorious 2.0"—the show's second soundtrack—debuted at No. 18 on the Billboard charts this month. Justice co-wrote some of the tracks, which also features her cast mates, and said making music for the show is helping her grow as an artist.

Currently in its third season, "Victorious" airs Saturdays. She said despite the show's young nature, the soundtrack is for all ages.

"It's just not kids' music. A lot of the lyrics are actually smart and sophisticated," she said.

The entertainer said her musical influences range from Britney Spears to Carole King. The teen only had six days off last year, and her schedule will get even busier when she launches her tour Aug. 2 in Costa Mesa, Calif. It wraps up Sept. 14 in Allegan, Mich.

AP

Victoria Justice attends the premiere of "Katy Perry: Part of Me" at Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 in Los Angeles.

"I want my sound to be different from the music that's been on `Victorious,'" she said. "I want there to be a distinction between `Victorious' songs and Victoria Justice songs."

Justice will expand her brand when she appears opposite Chelsea Handler and Johnny Knoxville in the film "Fun Size," the directorial debut by "Gossip Girl" and "The O.C." creator Josh Schwartz.

Sigourney Weaver, David Hyde Pierce aim for stage

NEW YORK (AP)—Sigourney Weaver and David Hyde Pierce are teaming up to play siblings this fall as both make a return to the stage in a Chekhov-inspired play.

Weaver, a three-time Academy Award nominee, and Tony Award-winning Pierce will star in Christopher Durang's "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike."

The play, which takes characters and themes from Chekhov and sets them in present day Pennsylvania, will start life at the McCarter Theatre in New Jersey before jumping to Lincoln Center Theater in October.

AP

This combination of 2012 file photos shows actors Sigourney Weaver, left, and David Hyde Pierce.

In the play, Vanya (Pierce) and his stepsister have stayed home to take care of their ailing parents while their movie star sister Masha (Weaver) has been touring the world. Sparks fly at a family reunion.

Weaver, who met Durang when both attended Yale University's School of Drama, has been in a Durang play before—starring on Broadway in his "Sex and Longing" in 1996. Weaver and Pierce have both been in the playwright's "Beyond Therapy," but she was in an off-Broadway 1981 version and he took it to Broadway in 1982.

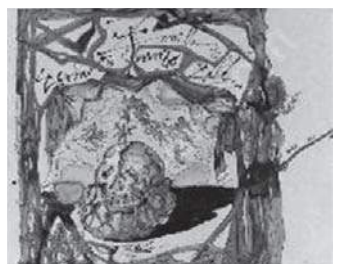
"Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" will run from Sept. 7 through Oct. 7 at the McCarter Theatre. Previews at Lincoln Center begin Oct. 25 with an opening set for Nov. 12 at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater.

Stolen Salvador Dali painting mailed back to NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. Postal Inspection Service says a stolen Salvador Dali painting has been mailed back to New York from Europe and intercepted at Kennedy International Airport.

The $150,000 work of art was swiped from a Madison Avenue art gallery last week by a man posing as a customer who walked out with the watercolor and ink painting in a shopping bag.

Inspection service spokeswoman Donna Harris tells *The New York Times* the gallery received an email this week that said the painting had been sent back. A tracking number was included. The gallery contacted police, and the painting was intercepted Friday.



AP

This image provided by the New York Police Department shows a 1949 Salvador Dali painting, called "Cartel des Don Juan Tenorio."

No arrests have been made.

The 1949 painting, "Cartel des Don Juan Tenorio," was part of the Venus Over Manhattan art gallery's very first exhibition. The gallery didn't comment.

Erin Andrews leaving ESPN

NEW YORK (AP)—Erin Andrews is leaving ESPN.

The network released a statement saying the reporter "did great work for us and we made an aggressive offer to keep her. We wish her the best on her next chapter."

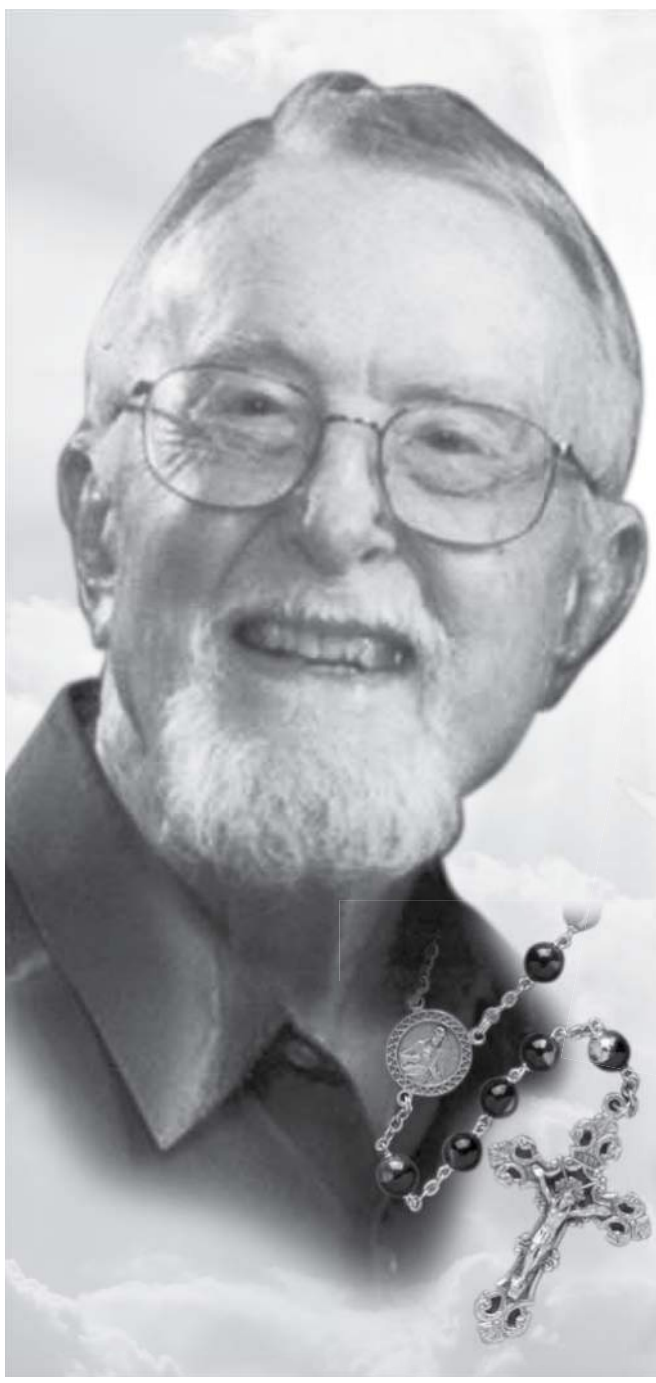
A favorite among fans, Andrews covered numerous sports for the network since 2004, often as a sideline reporter for college football and basketball.

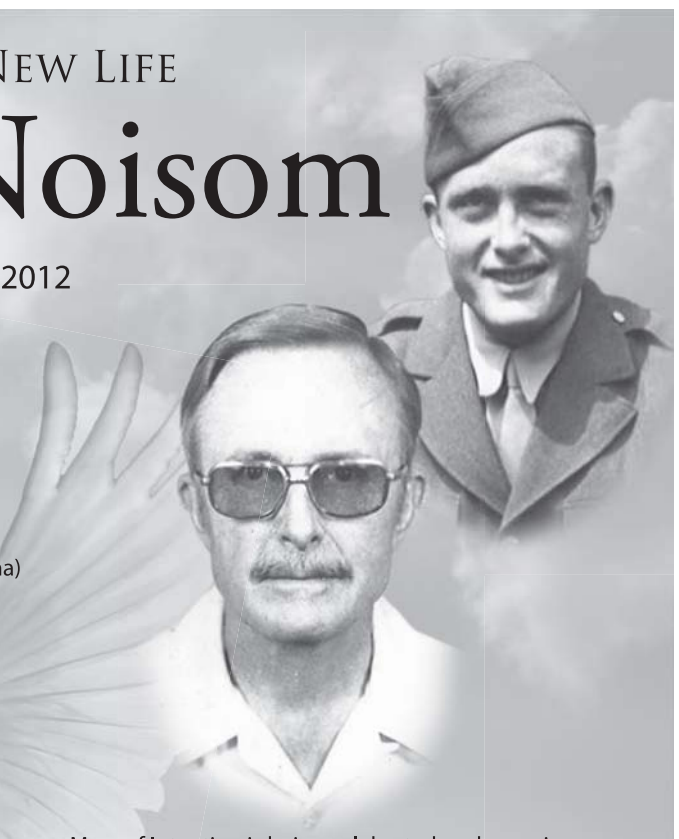
SI.com has reported that she is being pursued by Fox Sports.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Derry Dee Noisom

September 22, 1923 – June 25, 2012





His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: **Luise Quitugua Noisom**

Children and Grandchildren:
†Thomas Noisom & Linda
Christine N. Shell
Peter N. Krause (Jake, Avery, William)
Tony Noisom & Adriana (Natalie, Victoria, Emily)
Ligia Noisom
Liza Noisom & Carl (Devin, Margo, Christopher)
Sisi N. Alvarez & Raymond (Raymond III, Nick, Deven, Samuel, Ryder, Vanna)
Jenny N. Deleon Guerrero & Noel (Domonique, Elyna, Noel Jr., Tristine)
David Noisom
Devin Noisom

Mother-in Law: Adela I. Quitugua

Brothers and Sisters-in Law:
Carmen Q. Brown (John)
Sofina Q. Tomokane (Jesus)
Matilde I. Quitugua
Alicia I. Quitugua
Virginia Q. Richards (George)
Teresita Q. Phillips (Scott)
Jose I. Quitugua (Sue)
Mercedes Q. Deleon Guerrero (Jose)
Juan I. Quitugua (Dora Mae)
Diana Q. Gabaldon (Antonio)
Lydia I. Quitugua

Caregiver: Norma Uvero

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents:	†George Frederick & †Helen Harrison Noisom
Sister:	†Pluma Sweizer Noisom
Brother:	†George Frederick Noisom, Jr. "Bubba"
Son:	†Thomas Noisom
Father-in-Law:	†Florencio S. Quitugua
Brother/Sisters-in-Law:	†Remedio Q. Falig, †Luise I. Quitugua, †Juan I. Quitugua

He is additionally survived by numerous nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm, followed by Holy Rosary at 6:30 p.m. at Bithen Delos Remedios Church in Tanapag.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, July 03, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Bithen Delos Remedios Church at 7:30 a.m. Responso Service will be at 8:00 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment Service will be held at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery, Marpi, Saipan.

Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, Ghilisou and Salamat Po. Please join us in Prayers.

Luise Quitugua Noisom, Children and Family

Custody, images at stake in Cruise-Holmes divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes first got together, he jumped on a couch, she gushed girlishly, and many of their fans said, "Huh?"

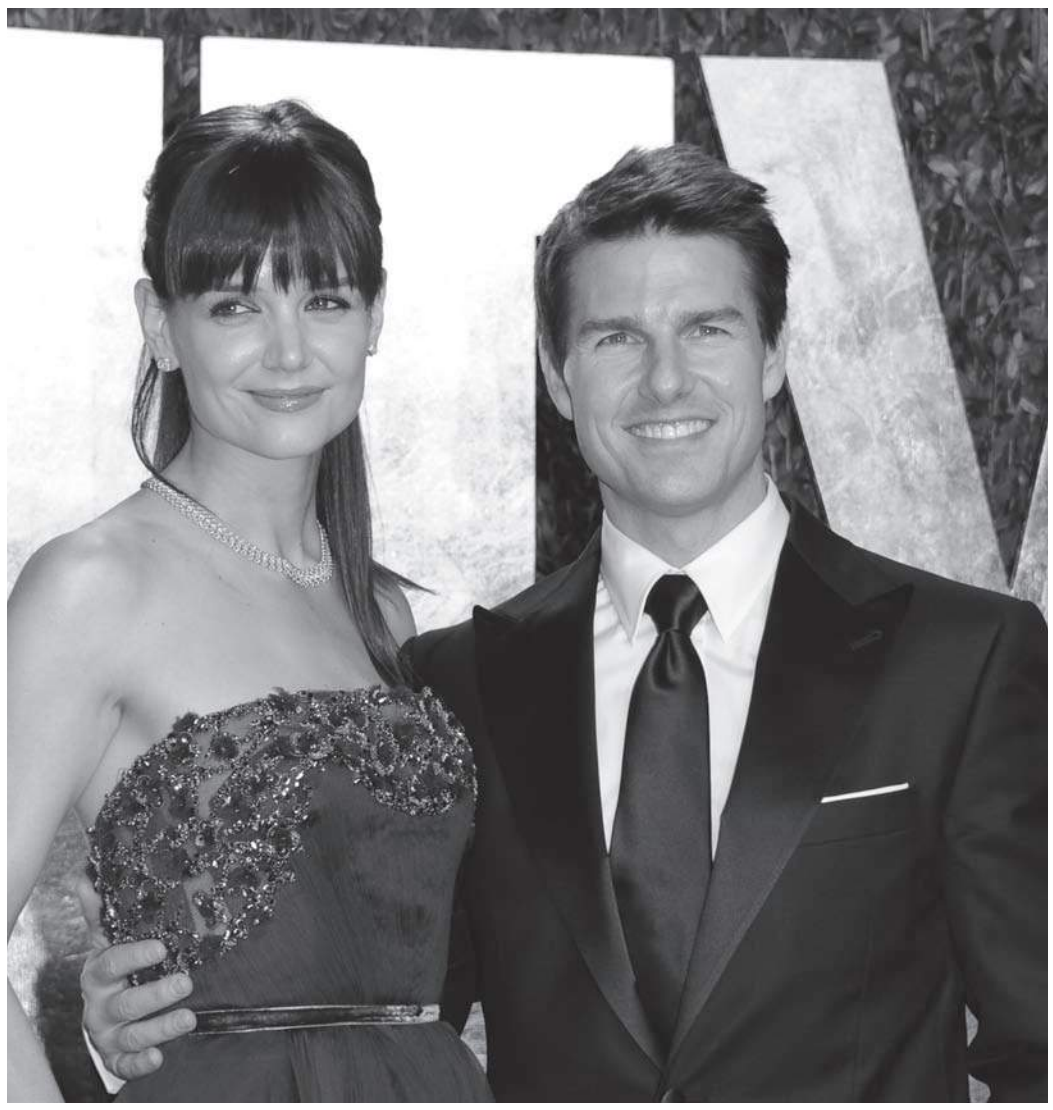
Their split could cause just as much drama.

Not only are the images of two Hollywood stars at stake, so is the future of 6-year-old Suri, with some speculating that Holmes' decision to file for divorce in New York might mean she's seeking sole custody of their daughter.

Ultimately, Cruise might have the most to lose.

"There's no question this divorce is going to hurt his public image," said Dorie Clark, author of the forthcoming "Reinventing You: Define Your Brand, Imagine Your Future."

"His brand was already tarnished significantly when he first got together with Holmes five years ago and was infamously jumping up and down on Oprah's couch, and shortly afterward the videos of him praising Scientology were leaked," she continued. "This divorce is another opportunity for questions to be raised about his personal life, his religious beliefs—which many consider outside the mainstream—and that's not what a box-office star really wants."



In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, actors Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar party, in West Hollywood, Calif. AP

California divorce attorney Michael Kelly, who is not involved with the Cruise-Holmes case, called Holmes' East Coast filing "a tactical move" that signifies "there will be an attempt to gain an advantage."

New York's comparative-fault divorce laws could be advantageous for Holmes, he said. The couple lived in Los Angeles.

Cruise and Holmes married in 2006 after a whirlwind love affair. He proposed at the Eiffel Tower. Their wedding was held at a 15th-century Italian castle.

She filed for divorce Thursday, ending her first marriage. This will be Cruise's third divorce. He was previously married to actresses Mimi Rogers and Nicole Kidman, with whom he has two children.

Cruise showed up alone at the recent Los Angeles and London premieres of his latest film, "Rock of Ages." Holmes also was absent earlier this month when Cruise received the Friars Club Entertainment Icon Award in New York. But he did bring Suri with him, allowing her to stay up late for the raunchy proceedings.

"Divorce will actually help Katie Holmes' brand," Clark said. "More people are going to be thinking about her and aware of her. This is generating a lot of sympathy and interest from people."

Holmes, 33, rose to fame on the teen soap "Dawson's Creek." She went on to appear in "Batman Begins," and earned raves for her roles in independent films such as 2003's "Pieces of April" and 2005's "Thank You for Smoking." She took a break after giving birth to Suri in April 2006 and marrying Cruise that November.

She did just a handful of roles until stepping things up in 2011. Holmes played Jackie Kennedy in the Emmy-winning miniseries "The Kennedys," appeared in Adam Sandler's "Jack and Jill" and just wrapped up a film with William Hurt. She said she's set to start another project in July.

Meanwhile, Cruise, who turns 50 on Tuesday, has remained a megastar. His latest role, as an Axl Rose-style rock star in "Rock of Ages," has won him strong reviews (though not corresponding box-office results), and his most recent "Mission Impossible" installment, "Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol," has made more than $690 million worldwide.

"Tom Cruise's brand has always been the dynamic, likable hero—the `Mission Impossible' star that you're rooting for—and it becomes harder for the public to get behind someone as a hero and want to go to the box office and cheer them on when there are serious questions about what kind of husband and father he is," Clark said.

Holmes' attorney, Jonathan Wolfe, said Friday that "Katie's primary concern remains, as it always has been, her daughter's best interest."

Naomi Campbell, perfume firm settle NYC lawsuits

NEW YORK (AP)—Naomi Campbell and a perfume company have settled a sour dispute that started over a fragrance line and became part of the backdrop of former Liberian President Charles Taylor's war crimes trial.

Dueling lawsuits between the supermodel and an entity called Moodform Mission were closed Thursday, Manhattan court records show. Moodform Mission's lawyer, Daniel R. Bright, said Friday his clients "are happy with the settlement," but he wouldn't disclose details. Campbell's lawyer didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

The dispute involves Campbell's longtime former modeling agent, Carole White, who joined with a Miami Beach, Fla.-based cosmetics company to form Moodform Mission in the 1990s.

Her New York court fight with the model was mentioned at Taylor's 2010 war crimes trial, at which White contradicted the model's testimony about some alleged blood diamonds—gems used to finance wars—she received from the former Liberian president. Taylor was convicted of arming and supporting murderous rebels in Sierra Leone in return for blood diamonds; he was sentenced in May to 50 years in prison. He plans to appeal his conviction.

At his trial in the Netherlands, Campbell said she didn't know the source of the stones presented to her after a dinner at former South African President Nelson Mandela's mansion in 1997, or even that they were diamonds. She gave them to a friend to donate to charity.

AP

In this Feb. 13, 2012 file photo, Naomi Campbell poses in the press room for the Elle Style Awards at the Savoy hotel in London.

When White took the stand and insisted that Campbell knew Taylor had provided the stones, Taylor's lawyer accused White of lying to further her lawsuit over the perfume fallout. White denied it.

In the perfume suit, Moodform Mission said it was unfairly squeezed out of its share of millions of dollars in profits from such scents as Naomi Campbell, Cat Deluxe and Seductive Elixir after working for years to line up a 1998 fragrance deal for Campbell.

The agreement called for regular payments to Moodform Mission once the scents went on the market in 2001, netting Campbell millions of dollars over the years, according to the company's lawsuit. It said Campbell violated the contract by inking a new fragrance-licensing agreement in 2008.

The new deal "was a fraudulent scheme arranged by (Campbell) for the purpose of avoiding her obligation to pay Moodform Mission the money required to be paid to it," said the suit, filed in 2009.

Campbell, meanwhile, said she wasn't given full information before signing her deal with Moodform Mission. She said she didn't know for years that White—her chief agent from 1993 until about 2006—had a stake in the perfume partnership.

"If White had told me that she was a principal in (Moodform Mission), I would not have blindly trusted her advice to sign the documents that she brought to me," Campbell said in a sworn statement last year. "... White held a position of trust and confidence in my life, and I expected her to act in my best interests (and never to benefit if this would be detrimental to my interests)."

Campbell, now 41, became one of the world's highest-paid models after being discovered at age 15. She is British.

She has also been known for her feisty temper. At various points, she pleaded guilty to cursing and kicking at police officers in a rage over missing luggage at London's Heathrow Airport, hurling a cellphone at her maid in New York because of a vanished pair of jeans and beating an assistant who said the model whacked her on the head with a phone in Toronto.

She was released without punishment in the Toronto case and sentenced to community service in the others.

TNT's 'Dallas' revival wins a second-season pickup

NEW YORK (AP)—The Ewings are forever battling each other, and viewers clearly love them.

TNT network says "Dallas" has been renewed for a 15-episode second season. The network announced Friday it will air in 2013.

Following the lives of J.R., Bobby and Sue Ellen Ewing, as well as the rest of the fractious clan, "Dallas" was revived earlier this month after decades off the air. It is averaging 6.9 million viewers in this, its first season.

"Dallas" brings back original cast members Larry Hagman, Patrick Duffy and Linda Gray, who are joined by Southfork newcomers including Josh Henderson, Jesse Metcalfe, Jordana Brewster and Julie Gonzalo.

The series was initially broadcast by CBS from 1978 to 1991.

McConaughey, 175 others asked to join film academy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Oscar-winning and nominated stars of "The Artist" and "The Help" have been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The film academy announced its roster of potential new members Friday. It includes best actor winner Jean Dujardin and supporting actress Octavia Spencer, along with nominees Berenice Bejo and Jessica Chastain.

Oscar-nominated "Bridesmaids" star Melissa McCarthy, "Albert Nobbs" supporting actress Janet McTeer, "A Better Life" star Demian Bichir and best director winner Michel Hazanavicius are also among the 176 moviemaking professionals asked to become academy members.

Academy president Tom Sherak called the invitees "some of the most talented, most passionate contributors to our industry."

Other actors on the list include Matthew McConaughey, Bryan Cranston, Kerry Washington, Jonah Hill and Andy Serkis.

Alec Baldwin marries yoga instructor in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin and his yoga instructor fiancee tied the knot Saturday in a New York City church, with a guest list that included family and famous Hollywood pals.

Baldwin, 54, and Hilaria Thomas, 28, married at St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in a Catholic ceremony performed by the Rev. George Deas. His "30 Rock" co-star Tina Fey, actress Mariska Hargitay, director Woody Allen, environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Baldwin's actor-brother, Stephen, were among those in attendance.

Thomas wore a silk magnolia Amsale gown with cap sleeves and a keyhole back neckline accented with crystal buttons. Baldwin's suit was designed by Tom Ford.

The two began dating last year and became in engaged in April. Baldwin was previously married to actress Kim Basinger; they have a daughter, Ireland, who attended the wedding Saturday in a slate silk chiffon gown also designed by Amsale.

The reception was being held at New York University's Kimmel Center.

The "Rock of Ages" actor warmly received congratulations from well-wishing fans on his way in for the service, said his friend and publicist, Matthew Hiltzik.

Hours before the ceremony, Baldwin tweeted lines from an Emily Dickenson poem. One read: "Was bridal e'er like this? A paradise, the host, And cherubim and seraphim The most familiar guest."

The wedding came about a week after Baldwin and a news photographer got into a scuffle outside of a courthouse where the actor was believed to have been picking up a marriage license. Baldwin and the photographer traded barbs over who shoved whom; no arrests were made.

AP

Actress Tina Fey enters St. Patrick's Old Cathedral for the wedding of Alec Baldwin and Hilaria Thomas in New York on Saturday, June 30, 2012.

Playing at the Olympics? Kylie says brace yourself

AP

Singer Kylie Minogue seen during the Nordoff Robbins O2 Silver Clef Awards at a venue in central London, Friday, June 29, 2012

LONDON (AP)—Kylie Minogue's got some advice for musicians appearing at the London Olympics: Prepare to be amazed.

The Australian sang at the closing ceremony of the Sydney Games in 2000 and also at the opening of the Paralympic Games two weeks later.

The pop singer reckons talent like Coldplay, Snow Patrol, Blur and Duran Duran have a special experience ahead.

Minogue says: "I still am thrilled at the memory of performing there because, doing it in your own country there's such a sense of pride that you're hosting the Olympics, and then to be at the center stage of the event is just extraordinary."

Minogue spoke at the Nordoff Robbins Silver Clef Awards in London, where she was honored for her 25 years in show business.

Joy Williams of *The Civil Wars* has baby boy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—It's a boy for Joy Williams of *The Civil Wars*.

Miles Alexander was born Saturday in the Music City. It's the first child for Williams and her husband Nate Yetton, the duo's manager. A statement says mama and son are happy and healthy.

Williams and her musical partner John Paul White officially went on maternity leave after a performance at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival earlier this month. The Grammy Award-winning duo plans to begin recording the follow-up to their surprise hit "Barton Hollow" during the hiatus.

Williams says she "never really knew the meaning of love at first sight until today."

Grammy winner Adele pregnant with first child

AP

In this Feb. 21, 2012 file photo, performer Adele arrives for the Brit Awards 2012 at the O2 Arena in London.

NEW YORK (AP)—Adele is celebrating another milestone—a pregnancy.

The superstar singer's representative confirmed Friday that the 24-year-old is expecting a child with boyfriend Simon Konecki. The message was posted on her official website, which crashed due to a large amount of traffic after the news was announced.

"I'm delighted to announce that Simon and I are expecting our first child together. I wanted you to hear the news direct from me, obviously we're over the moon and very excited but please respect our privacy at this precious time," she said on the website.

It's unclear how far along the British singer is.

Adele won six Grammys earlier this year for her best-selling "21" album. Though that disc was based on heartbreak, she has since found love with Konecki.

Sheen's 'Anger' premiere gets warm ratings welcome

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlie Sheen can claim a winning reception back on weekly TV.

FX network says Thursday's debut of his sitcom, "Anger Management," was the most-watched series premiere in that network's history, drawing 5.5 million viewers. FX said Friday that the audience for the evening's second episode grew to more than 5.7 million viewers.

"Anger Management" marks Sheen's return to sitcoms after his tumultuous exit from his long-running CBS hit "Two and a Half Men" last season.

AP

This file publicity image provided by FX shows Charlie Sheen as Charlie Goodson and Selma Blair as Kate Wales in a scene from the new comedy "Anger Management."

Distant mom now reaching out refuses to admit past abuse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When I was a child, my mother—a bipolar schizophrenic—abused me. At 12, I decided I had had enough of her mental and physical abuse. A family friend helped me to leave and be placed with my father. I am now 35 and haven't seen my mother since then.

A few years ago I wrote her a letter. In it I included pictures of my children, saying I would like her to know her grandchildren. She ripped the photos into pieces and sent them back with a note telling me to leave her alone and that I had "made my choice in life."

Last month, I received a letter from her saying she regretted destroying the pictures and would now like me to send more and she could meet us all. She also asked me for $6,000. She claims I "know" she never abused me and that she isn't mentally ill.

It has taken a long time for me to overcome the things she did to me. Even now, when I drive through the old neighborhoods where we lived—a different one for every grade I went to school—I break down in tears from the memories of her abuse.

Should I write my mother back or just let it go?

ON AN EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ON AN EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER: Let it go. Until your mother is well enough to admit what she did to you—and she ISN'T—do not expose your children to her. And as to the $6,000, if you can afford to spend that kind of money, spend it on therapy to overcome the sadness that still lingers from your abusive childhood. If you give it to your mother, she will only ask you for more and more.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Diane," and her youngest sister, "Jenny," have grown closer in recent years. Jenny and her husband have been married as long as Diane and I have. Our children are close in age, and none of us is wealthy.

We live in different states. In her attempt to stay connected to Diane, Jenny sends gifts on every conceivable occasion and non-occasion. She sends boxes of cheap items she picks up at her local dollar store—household knickknacks, toys, kitchen gadgets, plastic trinkets and costume jewelry. It's always things we neither need nor use, and the postage probably costs more than the items in those boxes.

Abby, I don't like it. Our home is already jammed with too much stuff. I have told my wife I want her sister to stop sending all that junk. Of course, she doesn't want to hurt her sister's feelings, so she says nothing. I have threatened to tell Jenny myself, but I know that would be a mistake. I don't interact with her and her husband anyway, and we don't communicate well. What can I do?

STUFFED WITH STUFF IN OREGON

DEAR STUFFED: You can't "do" anything because this is something your wife is going to have to deal with. Diane should tell Jenny that the two of you have reached a point in life where you are no longer able to accept things because you have nowhere to put them, and are now in the process of clearing out items you no longer use. She should tell her sister that when she wants to reach out, please do so on the Internet or pick up the phone.

However, if Sissy refuses to take the hint, you and your wife should look for someplace to donate the unwanted items. A thrift shop, church sale, women's shelter or children's hospital would be ideal—if Diane agrees, that is.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

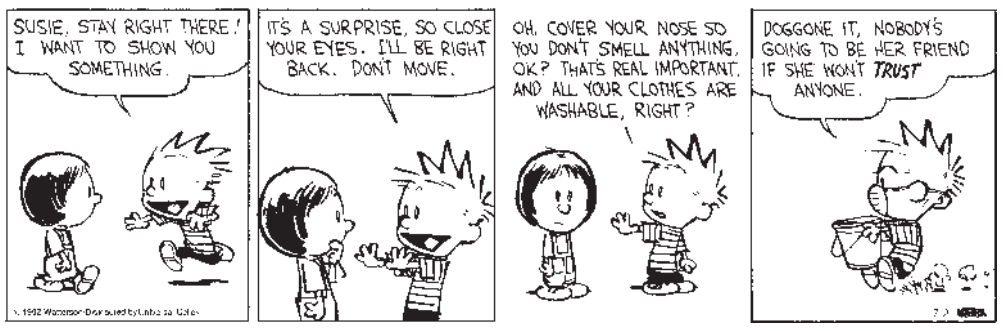
■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

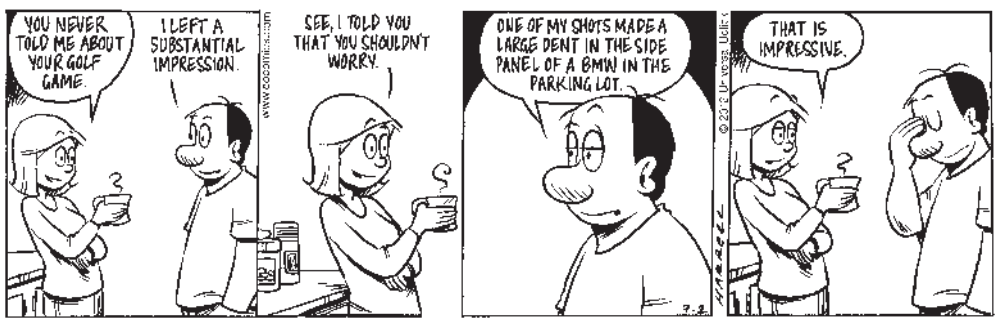

SUSIE, STAY RIGHT THERE! I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
IT'S A SURPRISE, SO CLOSE YOUR EYES. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. DON'T MOVE.
OH, COVER YOUR NOSE SO YOU DON'T SMELL ANYTHING, OK? THAT'S REAL IMPORTANT. AND ALL YOUR CLOTHES ARE WASHABLE, RIGHT?
DOGGONE IT, NOBODY'S GOING TO BE HER FRIEND IF SHE WON'T TRUST ANYONE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

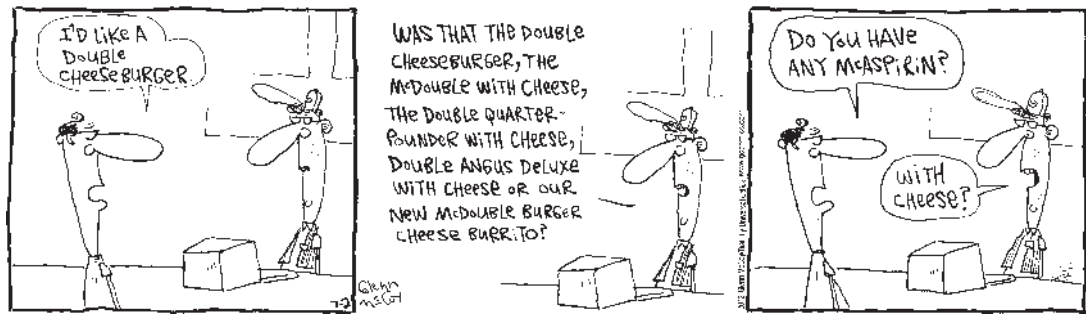
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR GOLF GAME.
I LEFT A SUBSTANTIAL IMPRESSION.
SEE, I TOLD YOU THAT YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY.
ONE OF MY SHOTS MADE A LARGE DENT IN THE SIDE PANEL OF A BMW IN THE PARKING LOT.
THAT IS IMPRESSIVE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'D LIKE A DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER
WAS THAT THE DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER, THE McDOUBLE WITH CHEESE, THE DOUBLE QUARTER-POUNDER WITH CHEESE, DOUBLE ANGUS DELUXE WITH CHEESE OR OUR NEW McDOUBLE BURGER CHEESE BURRITO?
DO YOU HAVE ANY McASPIRIN?
WITH CHEESE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 At the summit of
5 Two-timer
8 Feathered missile
12 Playwright Hansberry
14 Reverberate
15 Skilled at painting
16 Neighborhood
17 That woman
18 Look for typos, maybe
20 Mixed metal
23 — moss
24 Harness strap
25 Badmouthed big-time
28 Distant
29 Give a leg up
30 Deteriorate
32 Tire
34 Taj Mahal city
35 Pay attention
36 Weapon since 1952
37 Go back
40 Festive
41 Sandwich cookie
42 Related to "the sum of the parts"
47 Active one
48 Eternally, to a poet
49 Catch sight of
50 Scooted
51 Penn or Combs

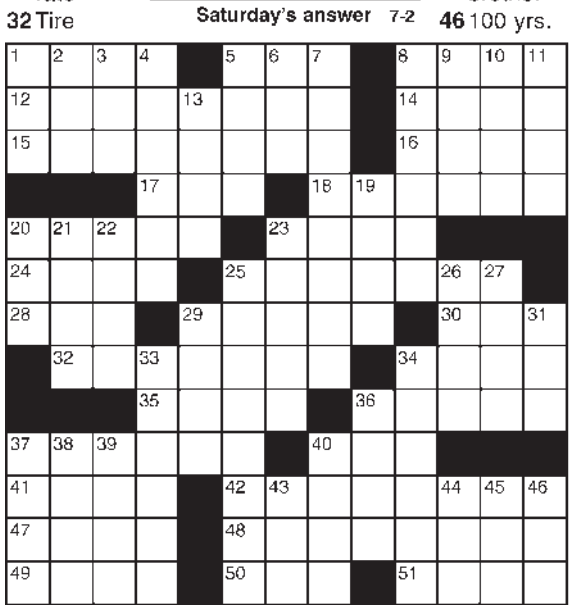
DOWN

1 — carte
2 Craggy peak
3 Table scrap
4 Penitentiary
5 Give as an example
6 Blackbird
7 Lessen
8 Inadequate supply
9 Farm measure
10 Comical Caroline
11 Frog's cousin
13 Wan
19 Right on the map?
20 "Bow-wow"
21 Fall faller
22 Old Italian money
23 Boastful, perhaps
25 As one
26 Therefore
27 College quarters
29 Coffin stand
31 Bill
33 Speculation
34 Bottomless pits
36 Tresses
37 Took the bus
38 Cupid's alias
39 Second in command, often
40 Singer Campbell
43 Eggs
44 Sock part
45 A Gershwin brother
46 100 yrs.

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	E	E	J	■	U	N	I	T	■	C	A	P
A	G	R	A	■	N	O	N	O	■	O	V	A
N	O	R	M	■	F	I	S	T	■	D	I	G
E	S	S	E	■	A	R	T	■	J	A	D	E
■	■	■	S	K	I	■	E	M	U	■	■	■
T	I	M	B	E	R	■	P	O	L	A	N	D
W	O	O	F	R	■	■	T	I	B	I	A	■
O	N	W	A	R	D	■	P	E	A	C	H	Y
■	■	■	R	Y	E	■	E	I	C	■	■	■
Y	A	R	D	■	L	E	A	■	H	E	C	K
O	D	E	■	D	U	L	L	■	I	S	L	E
W	O	N	■	A	G	U	E	■	L	A	I	N
L	S	D	■	M	E	L	D	■	D	U	O	S

Saturday's answer 7-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lindsay Lohan, 26; Ashley Tisdale, 27; Larry David, 65; Richard Petty, 75.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on the creative, not the obsessive. Assistance is available, but you have to ask for it and contribute your share. Discovering a new philosophy or changing your lifestyle will bring benefits not available to you in the past. Choose your associates based on honesty and integrity. Your numbers are 8, 10, 22, 25, 34, 37, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Network with experienced people to develop some innovative ideas that will translate into moneymaking projects. Different cultures will offer extra inspiration and motivation. Let your imagination run wild. Love is likely to take you by surprise. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Rethink your next move. You may not be given all the information you need regarding changes at home or to one of your investments. Don't be afraid to make a last-minute change if you feel you are being overcharged or taken for granted. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Doing too much will lead to few accomplishments. Assess your situation and the funds you have available to move forward. Excess will end up holding you back. Focus on partnerships and getting the help needed to accomplish your goals. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't feel the need to make changes because someone is pressuring you. Coast along, do what you do best and let your innovative intuition guide you. Take on a home-improvement project that will add to your comfort and lower your stress. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Join a group that shares your interest or goal. A geographical change will give you a new perspective on the possibilities that exist. Networking will lead to personal and professional friendships. Success and happiness are within reach. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't take chances that might affect your reputation or your position. Not everyone will favor your suggestions or intentions. Don't allow an emotional setback to interfere with your plans. Concentrate on what's important to you and keep moving. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll entice people to follow you. Your outlook and intelligence will open doors and bring about changes in the way people treat you and the offers that are proposed. Consider neighbors and friends as allies, and favors will be granted. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let your actions speak for you. A last-minute change can lead to a misunderstanding that will be difficult to reverse. Honesty is a must, but so is compassion. Be creative and loving, and you will bypass an uncomfortable situation. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll have plenty of chemistry and attract all sorts of attention from people with suggestions and proposals. Take every opportunity you get to market your plans and plant possibilities in the minds of those who can help you advance. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Step up your pace and focus on what you want to accomplish. Don't let an emotional, financial or institutional matter slow you down or confuse you regarding what you need to accomplish in order to maintain equilibrium and security. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put greater effort into home and family. You can enhance your relationships with the people who mean the most to you if you are honest about what you really want to do. Love, romance and self-improvement will help you excel. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Embellishing the truth will cause problems with friends, relatives or neighbors. Avoid any procedure or risk that can lead to a mishap. Too much of anything will make you look bad. Gracious and humble gestures will help you avoid trouble. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adventuresome, intuitive and free-spirited. You are sensitive and willful.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4		8		6			
3					7	6	8	
				1			5	
4				5			2	6
		5	4		1	9		
9	1			2				3
	8			4				
	9	3	1					5
			3		9		1	

Difficulty Level ★ 7/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	4	8	3	1	9	6	7
1	9	8	6	7	5	3	4	2
3	7	6	4	9	2	1	8	5
4	3	2	1	8	9	5	7	6
8	6	9	3	5	7	4	2	1
7	1	5	2	4	6	8	9	3
5	4	1	7	2	8	6	3	9
6	8	7	9	1	3	2	5	4
9	2	3	5	6	4	7	1	8

Difficulty level ★★★★ 6/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WORKING IN THE YARD Solution: 8 letters

M	D	W	A	L	K	W	A	Y	S	G	N	I	W	S
L	N	E	L	Y	T	S	A	A	H	S	U	B	S	I
N	O	L	R	D	N	A	L	W	F	I	T	A	G	C
G	P	O	L	A	P	A	V	E	P	O	R	W	R	N
N	E	S	P	A	C	E	A	V	A	G	P	E	O	I
I	Ⓢ	K	T	F	W	T	F	I	T	V	A	E	U	A
P	T	Ⓞ	A	C	U	G	E	R	H	T	E	D	N	R
A	I	N	Ⓘ	R	E	N	N	D	E	C	K	S	D	R
C	C	H	E	Ⓛ	W	T	C	I	D	E	A	S	C	E
S	I	S	A	M	A	N	I	T	N	S	L	O	O	T
D	D	U	U	E	T	I	N	H	I	I	R	O	V	S
R	E	L	R	R	E	A	G	W	C	O	A	I	E	K
A	C	A	E	I	R	P	E	O	B	R	N	T	R	C
H	T	E	Z	I	L	I	T	R	E	F	A	A	E	O
E	S	H	R	U	B	S	A	G	T	G	N	P	L	R

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Aerate, Arbor, Architect, Bush, Care, Create, Decks, Driveway, Features, Fencing, Fertilize, Functional, Gates, Grass, Ground Cover, Grow, Hardscaping, Hire, Ideas, Land, Leaves, Lush, Mulch, Open, Paint, Path, Patio, Pave, Pesticide, Pond, Pool, Rake, Retaining Wall, Rocks, Shrubs, Soil, Space, Style, Swings, Terrain, Tools, Treatment, Trees, Walkway, Water, Weeds

Last Saturday's Answer: Provinces

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 (all $6.95 each) plus postage/handling: Universal Uclick, $3 postage for the first book and $1 for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-591-4789. Check out our online puzzle store at http://store.wonderword.com. (Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Half volley

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Massage Shop on Guam. sale for business (not real estate) well populated area. $10,000. call 671-727-8447 or send inquiry to tropicisla@hotmail.com

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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or call tel nos. 234-1942 • 235-5555

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2 br, 1 bth, Fully Furnished w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc., very private: 322-2424

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Qualifications: High school graduate. A minimum of five years of work-related skill, knowledge or experience. Willing to work late hours.

Applications may be submitted to Joon Corp. dba King's Club at Garapan, Saipan or email cross_road_44@hotmail.com, Tel. No. 233-0353 or 483-5382
All applications must be accompanied by a current resume.

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Saipan Tribune

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2-Beautician (all around)
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Min. 5 to 10 yrs experience

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Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.
aka WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. aka WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC. Plaintiff, -v- **LINO B. SANTOS and EMELITA T. SANTOS,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11- 0320** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 19, 2012 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants LINO B. SANTOS and EMELITA T. SANTOS in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT 011 G 814, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 17, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 9, 1993 AS DOCUMENT NO. 93-4285 AT THE OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER, SAIPAN.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 27, 2012, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 26th day of June, 2012.

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CORPORATE DIRECTOR
(UNGRADED)

Opening Date: **June 18, 2012** **Closing Date: July 6, 2012**
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**
Salary: **$70,000 per annum – Commensurate with education and experience.**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and **submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form AND required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 6, 2012, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than Friday, July 6, 2012, to the Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jskaipat@nmhcgov.net NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

MAR PAC

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Graphic Designer

- Good Oral and Written Communications Skills
- Must be proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator
- Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Outlook
- Knowledge of Corel Draw & Onyx Poster Shop is a plus
- Must be able to brainstorm and mock up new design ideas
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc Offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village – Saipan. Deadline of submission is on July 6, 2012.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and Eligibility to work in the CNMI. Drug testing, Police and Court Clearance.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

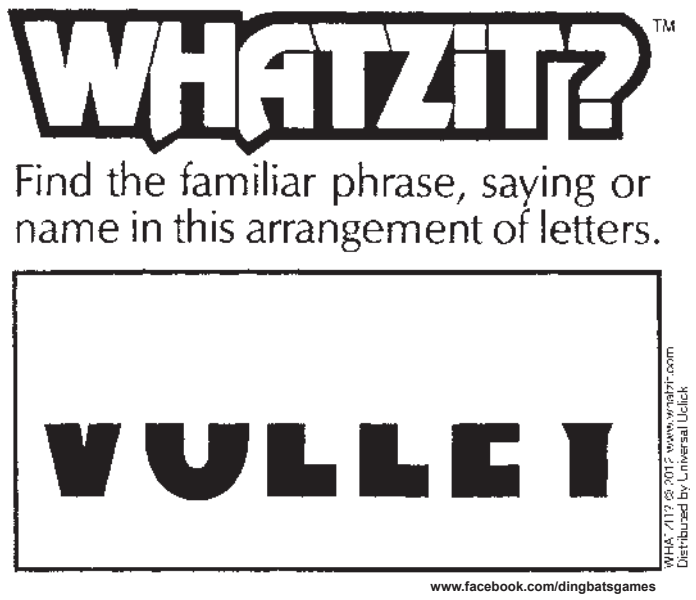
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Timberwolves making run at Pau Gasol

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves are trying hard to land Pau Gasol.

If they have to part with the highest draft choice in franchise history after just one season, the Wolves appear ready to do it.

That much became clear leading up to the NBA draft on Thursday, when Minnesota offered Derrick Williams in hopes of landing the second pick from the Charlotte Bobcats to help get Gasol from the Los Angeles Lakers, two people with knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press.

The people requested anonymity because the talks were meant to remain private. The deal never came together before the draft began, and the Bobcats stayed at No. 2 and took Kentucky forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist.

The Timberwolves are expected to continue their pursuit of Gasol in hopes of putting him with fellow Spaniard Ricky Rubio and Kevin Love on a revamped roster aimed at returning the team to the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

The Wolves' interest in Gasol has long been rumored, with the highly skilled big man considered an ideal fit for coach Rick Adelman's corner offense, and the kind of playoff-tested veteran needed on one of the youngest rosters in the NBA. He's close friends with Rubio, the Wolves' superb young point guard who is recovering from a torn ACL and hopes to be ready early next season.

Gasol has teamed with Kobe Bryant to win two titles in Los Angeles, but always seemed to catch the brunt of the criticism when things went wrong.

That happened again this year when he averaged just 12.5 points along with 9.5 rebounds in the playoffs, and the Lakers were eliminated in the second round by the younger, quicker Oklahoma City Thunder. He often appeared to get lost in the shuffle while Bryant and Andrew Bynum got most of the touches on offense.

This May 21, 2012 file photo shows Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16) going to the basket as Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9) defends during the first quarter of Game 5 in their NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal playoff series, in Oklahoma City.

He was the subject of trade rumors all season, starting before it began when Commissioner David Stern, operating as owner of the New Orleans Hornets, nixed a deal that would have sent Gasol to Houston as part of a package for Chris Paul to the Lakers.

''It has been a crazy year and a lot to deal with. ... Unfortunately, we had tough losses and things didn't really go our way for the most part," the four-time All-Star said at the end of the season. ''You just have to regroup and digest this loss and this season, and learn from it and move on."

Gasol is due to make more than $38 million over the next two seasons, an enormous sum that the salary cap-strapped Lakers might have difficulty footing under the harsher luxury tax penalties scheduled to kick in in 2013.

Love's max contract extension kicks in next season, making him the only Timberwolves player who is expected to be on the roster next season making more than $4.6 million. If the Wolves buy out Martell Webster and decline to tender qualifying offers to Michael Beasley and Anthony Randolph, as expected, they should have plenty of cap room for Gasol.

But if they want to bring him in to play alongside Love in the frontcourt, it likely will come at a hefty price. Offering Williams, the second overall pick last season who showed promise and inconsistency in his rookie year, means the Wolves would be giving up on him after just one season. The 21-year-old Williams has plenty of potential to grow into the star that many projected when he entered the draft after his sophomore season at Arizona.

Gasol will turn 32 next week and played nearly 39,000 minutes in his career, raising the question if he has enough gas left in the tank to help turn the Timberwolves into a legitimate contender.

Williams knows the Wolves tried to deal him, but it's unclear how he will respond if he's still on the team at the start of training camp.

He averaged 8.8 points and 4.7 rebounds and was the only Timberwolves player to play in all 66 games last season. Williams had several big games during an inconsistent season, which included participating in the slam dunk contest during All-Star weekend. He scored 27 points in 27 minutes in a win over the Clippers in Los Angeles on Feb. 28 and had 27 points and eight boards in a loss at Denver on April 11.

But the 66-year-old Adelman has been pushing for the franchise to add more veterans, and he grew impatient at times with Williams last season.

Williams did most of his damage while playing power forward, which is the same position played by Love, who blossomed last year into a surprising MVP contender. With Love playing so many minutes at power forward, the Timberwolves were hoping Williams could drop some weight this summer to help him become quick enough to play small forward for the majority of the time.

Earlier this week, Kahn said Williams was already down to 233 pounds, with a personal goal of 225.

''I think the most important fact about Derrick to me is that he turned 21 last month. He's still very, very young," Kahn said Wednesday. ''This is a very important summer for him to demonstrate if he's serious about his craft, his occupation, that he's serious about himself. This is the offseason. I challenged him in his exit interview, and I'm eager to see the results of this summer."

Kahn declined to list Williams with Rubio and Love as ''untouchable" players when the team considers trades this summer.

''We have two untouchables," Kahn said. ''That doesn't mean everyone else will be traded this summer. We just don't know."

Garnett re-signs with Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—Kevin Garnett isn't ready to retire.

Few people expected Kevin Garnett to leave the Celtics given his loyalty to coach Doc Rivers. Garnett has decided to return to the Boston Celtics and is expected to sign a three-year, $34 million contract, league sources told Yahoo! Sports. The NBA's free-agent period begins at 12:01 a.m. ET Sunday and players can officially start signing contracts on July 11.

Garnett, 36, averaged 15.8 points and 8.2 rebounds for the Celtics last season. He was expected to draw interest from other teams, but his loyalty to coach Doc Rivers made him likely to return to Boston once he decided to keep playing. One NBA executive said Garnett would have only left the Celtics if they didn't make him a solid contract offer.

The Celtics have several other free agents in Ray Allen, Brandon Bass, Marquis Daniels, Keyon Dooling, Jeff Green, Ryan Hollins, Sasha Pavlovic and Mickael Pietrus. Allen is expected to be courted by the Phoenix Suns.

The Boston Herald first reported Garnett's intention to re-sign with the Celtics.

De Jonge takes 1-shot lead over Woods, 2 others

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Saturday at Congressional was not the first time Tiger Woods has played before so few fans.

There were those 6 a.m. practice rounds at the British Open. Or the occasional PGA Tour event where fans were evacuated because of a thunderstorm and hardly anyone returned at twilight when play resumed. There surely was the odd junior event he played when he was 8.

But teeing off in the late afternoon at the AT&T National, on a steamy but sun-filled day on a fabled course in a golf-mad area like Washington?

Woods had the largest crowd of the day, even though it never topped 100 people. Brendon de Jonge, who had a 2-under 69 to take a one-shot lead, had as many birdies (three) as people in his gallery on a strange, silent Saturday at Congressional.

A violent wind storm overnight that toppled dozens of trees and littered the course with limbs forced tournament officials to keep spectators and all but the essential volunteers away from Congressional for the third round. Considering the amount of debris, it was amazing they even played.

"I've played in front of people like this," Woods said. "But not generally for an 18-hole competitive round."

De Jonge was steady in the sweltering conditions for a third straight round in the 60s, which gave his first 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour. One shot behind were Woods (67), Bo Van Pelt (67) and S.Y. Noh (69).

De Jonge, a South African going for his first PGA Tour win, made his final birdie on the 12th hole with a wedge out of the rough that climbed over a ridge and settled about 12 feet behind the cup. It was worthy of applause, but there was only one person in the gallery to see it - Kandi Mahan, the wife of Hunter Mahan.

Indeed, this was a day like few others on the PGA Tour.

A few volunteers, tournament staff and club members tagged along after Woods, and provided about the only noise of the round. They watched him and Van Pelt get off to a quick start, and then match pars on the back nine to get close to the lead.

"I told Tiger that was a Bo Van Pelt crowd, so I was used to that," Van Pelt said. "I was very comfortable with 10 or 15 people watching me play golf. No, it was just nice to get it in. I think we're all fortunate that nobody got hurt out here last night. It's a credit to the grounds staff that they got this golf course ready. I'm sure if you saw pictures of what it looked like at midnight, the fact that we played golf today is a minor miracle."

De Jonge was at 7-under 206 and will play in the final group with Van Pelt and Woods, who is going for his third win of the year. Woods won the AT&T National the last time it was held at Congressional in 209.

Billy Hurley, the Navy veteran who grew up in the area, had a 66 and was two shots back, along with Mahan, who stumbled to a 73.

Sunday might be a return to normal, at least with the noise, especially with Woods in the final group.

The final round will be threesomes going off both sides, giving the grounds crew even more time to clean up the course. For Saturday, it did well to put chain saws to the toppled trees and collects the hundreds of branches scattered across the fairways and pile them up outside the ropes.

It was the debris, along with some loose limbs, that led officials to turn back spectators for the third round. The Saturday tickets will be honored Saturday, which could make Congressional even more raucous.

The third round was anything but that.

"It was like being on the Nationwide Tour again," Kevin Chappell said after a 72 that left him 4 over.

The last time Jim Furyk played on a Saturday, he had thousands of people lining the fairways of Olympic Club in the U.S. Open. What a contrast to Congressional.

"It was peaceful, but just odd," Furyk said. "It's fun to get fan interaction, and hear cheers when you hit a good shot. We had more people on the Nike Tour than now."

No one was complaining. They were playing. And it didn't take long for them to realize why no one was there.

Serena survives Jie, faces 'perfect' foe

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Absolutely perfect—24 points played, 24 points won.

Can't be any better than wild-card entry Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazahstan was at the beginning of her third-round match at Wimbledon on Saturday, winning every single point in the 15-minute first set of what became a 6-0, 6-4 victory over French Open runner-up Sara Errani of Italy. It's the only ''golden set'' for a woman in the 44 years of professional tennis.

Of all the ways a point can be lost—a double-fault, for example, or an opponent's ace; one ball that floats a half-inch wide or long or catches the tape of the net, say, or even a lucky shot off the other player's that somehow finds a line, etc., etc.—none happened during Shvedova's 15 minutes of fame.

''Apparently, it's the biggest news of the day: I lost a set without winning a point. Unbelievable,'' the 10th-seeded Errani said. ''She was impossible to play against. I don't even feel like I played terribly. She just was hitting winners from every part of the court.''

The 65th-ranked Shvedova didn't even realize what was happening. Not until she was in the gym afterward, cooling down, when her coach pointed out the accomplishment.

''I had no idea. I was just playing every point and every game,'' said Shvedova, a 24-year-old who won two Grand Slam doubles titles in 2010 with Vania King of the U.S.

Shvedova did notice the way spectators at Court 3 applauded and yelled after Errani stopped the streak by taking the opening point of the second set.

''I was, like, 'What's going on?'' Shvedova said.

Now things figure to get a tad tougher. In the fourth round Monday, she'll face Serena Williams, whose 13 Grand Slam titles include four at the All England Club.

''Hopefully I'll be able to win a point in the set,'' Williams said, somehow keeping a straight face. ''That will be my first goal, and then I'll go from there.''

She actually came rather close to exiting Saturday, needing every one of her tournament-record 23 aces to come back and edge 25th-seeded Zheng Jie of China 6-7 (5), 6-2, 9-7. Williams won all 18 of her service games and saved all six break points she faced.

Three times, while down 5-4, 6-5 and 7-6 in the final set, she served to stay in the match - and the tournament.

Each time, she won the pivotal game at love.

''It's good to know that I can rely on that,'' said the sixth-seeded Williams, who also held

AP

Serena Williams of the United States reacts after winning against Zheng Jie of China during a third round women's singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, Saturday, June 30, 2012.

smacking a big return that left an off-balance Zheng hitting a wild forehand long.

After a couple hiccups while trying to serve it out, including a double-fault and two wasted match points, Williams ended the nearly 2 1/2-hour contest with a 102 mph service winner, followed by a stretch backhand volley winner. She celebrated with a huge leap.

''I just wanted to get through that match,'' said Williams, who was upset in the first round at the French Open in late May and hasn't won a Grand Slam title in two years. ''The last thing I wanted to do was lose.''

Her buddy and possible London Olympics mixed doubles partner, Andy Roddick, did lose. The 29-year-old American, three times the runner-up to Roger Federer at the All England Club, blew a kiss to the Centre Crowd as he walked off after being beaten 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4, 6-3 by No. 7-seeded David Ferrer, but said he hasn't made up his mind about his future in the sport.

Another American, Sam Querrey, also departed, with a 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-7 (3), 17-15 loss to No. 16 Marin Cilic of Croatia. The 5 1/2-hour match is the second-longest in tournament history, behind the 11-hour, 5-minute marathon that John Isner won 70-68 in the fifth set against Nicolas Mahut in 2010.

Two other U.S. men did make the fourth round: 126th-ranked qualifier Brian Baker, who was off the tour for about six years after a series of operations; and 10th-seeded Mardy Fish, who is in his first tournament since having a medical procedure on his heart in late May and hasn't faced anyone ranked higher than 70th.

Winners also included No. 4 Andy Murray, whose four-set victory over Marcos Baghdatis ended at 11:02 p.m.; No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 9 Juan Martin del Potro, and No. 27 Philipp Kohlschreiber, who beat the man who beat Rafael Nadal, Lukas Rosol, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (6).

Women joining Williams and Shvedova in the fourth round were defending champion Petra Kvitova, second-seeded Victoria Azarenka, recent French Open champions Ana Ivanovic and Francesca Schiavone, No. 21 Roberta Vinci and unseeded Tamira Paszek.

Good as each was Saturday, none can say they have ever been as good for a set as Shvedova was.

No woman has.

According to the International Tennis Federation, only one other perfect set ever has been played since the Open era began in 1968: Bill Scanlon of the U.S. won all 24 points in the second set of a victory over Marcos Hocevar of Brazil at Delray Beach, Fla., in 1983.

Oddly enough, only once before had a woman won 23 consecutive points, the ITF said: Shvedova, of all people. She took a 5-0, 40-love lead in a match against Amy Frazier of the U.S. at Memphis in 2006—only to end up losing 1-6, 6-0, 6-0.

Kuroda earns11 strikeouts in Yanks win over White Sox

NEW YORK (AP)—New York's Hiroki Kuroda tied a career high by striking out 11 as the Yankees beat Chicago 4-0 on Saturday, ending the White Sox four-game winning streak.

Kuroda (8-7) pitched three-hit ball for seven innings and walked one in the matchup of American League division leaders.

Dewayne Wise, who the previous day was unexpectedly called upon to pitch, shone in a more familiar role as he had three hits and homered. Curtis Granderson and Robinson Cano also cleared the fences.

Chicago starter Jake Peavy (6-5) struck out 11 without a walk in his fourth complete game this year yet still took the loss.

Blue Jays 11, Angels 2

In Toronto, Yunel Escobar homered during a seven-run burst in the second inning which spurred Toronto past Los Angeles.

Brett Lawrie later added a three-run shot. He also doubled and singled.

Indians 11, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Shin-Soo Choo went 4 for 5 with a homer, scored four runs and collected three RBIs to lead Cleveland past Baltimore.

Shelley Duncan also homered for the Indians, who had a season-high 19 hits — eclipsing record of 16, set the previous night.

Twins 7, Royals 2 Game 1

In Minneapolis, Scott Diamond pitched eight solid innings as Minnesota downed Kansas City in the opener of a doubleheader.

Easily the Twins' most-effective starter since being called up in May, Diamond (7-3) allowed two runs.

Twins 5, Royals 1 Game 2

With the ball surprisingly flying out of Target Field, the Kansas City hitters lamented not doing enough in two games against the Minnesota Twins.

Joe Mauer, Josh Willingham and Chris Parmelee homered off Luke Hochevar to propel the Twins a 5-1 win Saturday and sweep of the day-night doubleheader.

Rangers 7, Athletics 2

In Arlington, mistakes have come at the worst possible time for the Oakland Athletics in the last few games against the Texas Rangers.

One night after the bullpen blew a late lead, Oakland's defense came apart behind starter Tommy Milone. Josh Hamilton hit a three-run home run to cap a big fifth inning and the Rangers extended their winning streak to five games, beating the A's 7-2 on Saturday night.

Tigers 6, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Rick Porcello allowed four hits in seven shutout innings, Austin Jackson hit a three-run homer and the Detroit Tigers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 6-2 on Saturday night.

Porcello (6-5) struck out four

Reds 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Cincinnati's Mat Latos pitched a two-hitter to win his career-best seventh straight decision, leading the Reds to a 2-1 win over the San Francisco Giants in Saturday's clash of National League divisional leaders.

Latos (7-2) struck out seven and didn't walk a batter in his 115-pitch gem and second straight complete game.

Mets 5, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Johan Santana pitched eight scoreless innings as New York handed Los Angeles a season-worst seventh-straight loss.

Santana (6-4) did not give up a hit between leadoff singles in the first and eighth innings.

Ike Davis hit a three-run homer for the Mets.

Braves 7, Nationals 5

In Atlanta, Mike Minor won for just the second time in 12 starts as Atlanta beat Washington in stifiling heat.

Minor (4-6), who had lost his past two starts, allowed four runs in five innings.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Pedro Alvarez hit a grand slam in the first inning to set up Pittsburgh's win over St. Louis.

Andrew McCutcheon had two hits before leaving with a sore left wrist, helping the Pirates notch their fourth victory in a row.

Brewers 10, Diamondbacks 2

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun homered twice and Cody Ransom added a three-run shot to lead Milwaukee over Arizona.

Braun's two home runs gave him the National League lead with 22 for the season. Carlos Gomez also hit a home run as the Brewers had 13 hits.

Marlins 3, Phillies 2

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton homered and drove in two runs as Miami edged Philadelphia and won a third straight.

Jose Reyes had two hits, stole two bases and scored twice for Miami.

Cubs 3, Astros 2

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo hit his first homer with the Cubs, a two-run go-ahead shot in the fifth inning, as Chicago pipped Houston.

Cubs starter Matt Garza (4-6) struggled but got the victory by working 5 1-3 innings.

Padres 8, Rockies 4

In Denver, Yasmani Grandal and Alexi Amarista each homered twice, leading San Diego over Colorado.

Grandal, called up from the minors before the game, has homered in his first two hits in the majors.

Rollers, Rascals clinch titles in RBC basketball tournament

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Little Rollers' TJ Factor attacks the basket during their U10 championship game against the Little Rebels in the RBC caging last Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Rascals' Khristian Itaas drives to the basket during their U12 title game against the R-Rebels in the RBC caging last Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Little Rollers and Rascals were crowned champions in the Rollers Basketball Club's Mini-Rascal Tournament after last Thursday title games at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Little Rollers defeated the Little Rebels, 38-20, in the U10 finals, while the Rascals pounced the R-Rebels in the U12 championship match, 36-14.

Playing for the Little Rollers are Dance Chua, Carl Esdrelon, TJ Factor, Ian Kwon, Fei-Fei Lei, Meko Quiambo, Taiga Sato, Peter Shan, Wendy Tan, and Keoni Yarofalir. Joe Diaz coached the championship squad.

The Rascal' champion roster includes Taka Borja, Ylae Caracut, Emmanuel Cubocha, Chioni Dela Cruz, Dexter Guharra, Jiang Han, Khristian Itaas, Mat Mamaril and DJ Olopai with Paul Camacho handling the squad.

In the U10 finale, the Little Rebels held a slim 12-10 advantage, thanks to the six early points of TJ Factor. Factor finished with 18 points in the match, while Taka Borja scrambled for eight on the short end.

The Rebels advanced to the U10 title match after a 46-43 victory over the Young Guns last Tuesday.

In the U12 title match, the halftime scores were not recorded, however the sheet showed Rascals' Khristian Itaas having a breakout performances with his 16 points. He received 10 markers in support from Ylae Caracut, while R-Rebels' Angelo Factor and Kyle Ottoa came out the only contributors to their team's offense.

Organizers will select most valuable players of each team and award all the winners prize packages after the U14 championship game this Thursday.

First Game
U10 Finals

Little Rollers 38 – Factor 18, Esdrelon 8, Quiambao 6, Sato 4, Shan 2.

Little Rebels 20 – T. Borja 8, I. Borja 6, Bartolome 4, Carlson 2.

Scoring by halves: 12-10, 38-20.

Second Game
U12 Finals

Rascals 36 – Itaas 16, Caracut 10, Cubocha 6, Dela Cruz 2, Mamaril 2.

R-Rebels 14 – A. Factor 10, Ottoa 4.

DLX

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gate and received nine markers each from Darwin Barbo and Noel David in the second quarter push.

DLX then turned it on after the break and jolted ahead, 59-38, thanks largely to the 10 points of Elmer Esdrelon late in the third. Barbo added eight in the breakaway.

DLX easily trotted to victory lane in the final period with Leo Galarse helping out in the fourth period, making 9 of his 18 points in that quarter. The R-Rebels' Sly Teregeyo matched Galarse's effort in defeat.

In the second game, Mobil worked out an early 21-14 lead in the opening period, behind the eight points of Gyles Ruluked and remained on top at halftime, 40-32. Ruluked added eight more points in the second quarter, while Star Water's White Capalad and Dennis Vinas combined for 18 points in the first half to keep their team afloat.

Star Water's Erwin Gomez then came off the bench in the third, drained three treys, and scored 15 points in that quarter alone to grab the lead, 64-59.

However, Gomez went cold in the fourth quarter, as he was held to one basket, while Jun Estolas and Angleo Fernando teamed up for 21 points for Mobil to regain the driver's seat and secure the win in the end.

Estolas paced Mobil with 21 points, while Vinas led all scorers with 25, making 10 in the fourth canto.

Meanwhile, the playoff round was scheduled to start last Saturday, but games were rained-out.

First Game

DLX 79 – Galarse 18, Esdrelon 15, Guiab 14, Barbo 12, Abedes 7, David 5, Fernandez 4, Muleta 3, Trajano 1.

R-Rebels 65 – Teregeyo 18, Ogumoro 14, Fitial 13, Lisua 10, Litulumar 4, Norita 2, E. Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 30-26, 59-38, 79-65.

Second Game

Mobil 88 – Estolas 21, Fernando 19, Ruluked 18, Demapan 12, Hossain 8, Jose 4, Reyes 3, Carotan 2.

Star Water 84 – Vinas 25, Gomez 17, Santos 14, Capalad 10, De Dios 10, Rivera 8.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 40-32, 59-64, 88-84.

MARIANAS

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had already secured the first two tickets. Banahaw, Brabu, Sinigang (2-3), San Roque, and R-Lyn's (1-3) will fight for the two remaining playoff slots.

Rommel Usi led Brabu's important win, firing 25 points, while JP Jose nailed 15. The duo teamed up in the fourth quarter to match Angelo Fernando's explosion and lift Brabu to the six-point win. Usi made 10 points in the final canto, while Jose chipped in 7 and three other Brabu players contributed at least one basket apiece.

Fernando had 11 of San Roque's 15 markers and only him and Ryan Odicta lit up the scoreboard in the payoff period. San Roque led after the third canto, 47-45, but lost the game in the end due to its limited option on offense.

San Roque fell to a 2-4 record and must prevail in its last game and pray that Brabu, Banahaw, and Sinigang will not record more than three wins to stay in the hunt for the playoff tickets in Bracket A.

In Bracket B, Marianas Water edged Mawati, 61-60, to force a tie for fourth place with Docomo (3-3). Only the Top 4 squads in Bracket A will also make it to the playoffs and only Team Pogi (5-1) has been assured of a playoff ticket with Mawati (3-2), DLX/Irish Spring (3-1), Docomo (3-3), Marianas Water, and AD 31 (3-4) left to battle for the three remaining spots.

Marianas Water led from start to finish and thwarted Mawati's comeback bid after Mel Capalad hit four crucial free throws in the homestretch and Joey Sirivan canned three straight baskets early in the fourth.

Capalad paced Marianas Water with his 17 markers, while Joseph Galulu added 10. Jerome Reyes was the lone double figure scorer for Mawati with 15, but was held to only two points in the fourth canto, as they fell short of eking out a come-from-behind win.

Meanwhile, the first game between Team Pogi and DLX/Irish Spring last Saturday was rained-out midway in the third period with the former just ahead by a hair, 47-46.

First Game

Brabu Gualo Rai 69 – Usi 23, Jose 15, Mallari 8, Mamaril 5, Galzote 5, Samson 4, Dayrit 2, Marchadesch 2.

San Roque 63 – Fernando 24, Bautista 11, Odicta 9, Mi. Achas 12, Claveria 4, Hidalgo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16, 34-32, 45-47, 69-63.

Second Game

Marianas Water 61 – Capalad 17, Galulu 10, Devero 9, Olivos 8, Siriban 8, Pacheco 4, Casabuena 3.

Mawati 60 – Reyes 15, Gontar 9, Avila 8, Enriquez 7, Ibanes 4, Pena 2, Corotan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 35-26, 51-41.

STRONG

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during the Micronesian Games in Palau.

Bennett also raced in the final day of the Oceania championship and timed in at 13.20 seconds in the 100m sprint and placed third on Heat 1. Nauru's Chrissa Detanamo topped the event with her 12.28 seconds.

The 22-year-old Bennett had earlier teamed up with Abrams, Reylynn Sapong, and Lia Rangamar in the 4x100m relay run last Thursday and the CNMI quartet won the bronze medal after placing third behind Fiji (49.72 seconds) and Papua New Guinea (50.65 seconds) teams with a time of 53.79 seconds.

After their bronze medal win, Sapong had her final event—the 800m run—last Friday and timed in at 2:55.87 for eighth place. New Zealand's Maggie Unternahrer ruled the race with her 2:13.81.

Michael Mancao raced in the same event for the boys U20 and placed seventh out of 11 runners. He timed in at 2:07.10 to beat two runners from Guam and one each of Australia and Cook Islands.

In the men's open 100m sprint, Orrin Pharmin fell one notch short of making it to the finals. He timed in at 12.36 seconds on Heat 2 for fourth place and ninth overall. Only runners with the Top 8 times were given slots to the finals.

LEE

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Three strokes back came runner-up Seung Woo Kang, who stumbled out of the gate with a 40, but roared back on the backside with a 33 for 1-over par 73.

Adam Hardwicke rounded out the third spot with a solid 36 on the front and a 38 on the back for 2-over par 74.

In the A Flight, Steve Jang bested 15 others with his 77 (39-38). He finished two strokes ahead of Joseph Muna (42-37), while Ko Eui Suk edged out Enoch S Lim in the sudden death playoff to claim third place. Suk and Lim finished the round with identical gross scores of 80.

In the B Flight, Jeong Yoon Kim scratched a 39 on the front and finished the back nine strong with a 35 for a gross score of 74 that easily earned first place over 22 other players.

Eight strokes back came both Asarcon Presiciano (42-40) and Benjamin Mabborang(42-40) with the former winning the runner-up honors in sudden death.

John Reyes Jr. earned bragging rights in the 35-player C Flight with a raw count of 84 (44-40). He narrowly escaped young gun Lucy Park by just one stroke (45-40), while Arvin Ogo's 87 (46-41) was good enough for third place.

Veteran golfer Ed Manibusan turned in a 38 and a 36 for a gross 74 to win the Senior Flight over 15 other competitors. Richard Kautz (38-40) finished four strokes back in second place, while Joseph Sablan's (40-40) 80 settled for third.

In the Ladies Flight, Leina Kim bagged first place over a dozen others. She started out with a 36 and finished the back with a 39 for a solid 75 raw count. Shiori Onoue managed a 41 and a 38 for a gross total of 79, while Yuko Togawa (38-42) took third place with an even 80.

First place finishers in all flights were awarded United Airlines flight packages to anywhere between Guam and Micronesia, Hong Kong, Manila, or Australia and $500 cash. Second and third place finishers won $300 and $200, respectively.

NMC would like to thank all the sponsors, supporters, and volunteers, who made the event possible.

Weekend Sports

CNMI competes in off-island tourneys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI was represented in two off-island competitions last week.

In the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 held at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia, from June 27 to 29, the Commonwealth entered seven athletes in the throwing and running events in the annual competition. The seven-man CNMI team was composed of Yvonne Bennett, Lia Rangamar, Orrin Pharmin, Beo Ngirchongor, Reylynn Sapong, Rachel Abrams, and Michael Mancao.

In the Lixil Ironman 70.3 Centrair in Tokoname, Japan, Saipan triathlete Mieko Carey joined the women's 30 to 34 age group and topped her division, placing sixth overall in the women's and No. 145 among the more than 1,000 finishers. She completed the 1.9-kilometer (1.2-mile) swim, 90km bike, and 13km run in 5:01:40.

In local events, on-going competitions on Saipan continued.

In the DLX/DL JOS caging, the race for playoff spots heated up with the Fastbreakers and KFC/Taco Bell securing two of the four spots in Bracket A, while Team Pogi sealed one playoff ticket in Bracket A. Sinigang, AD 31, Docomo, and Gualo Rai are still in the race after posting separate wins last week.

Still in basketball, DYS/Bayani swept the regular season of the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup, while SIP/Barney's and Hi-Five also notched wins, heading into the playoff round.

In soccer, Shirley's FC clinched the championship in the 2012 NMIFA Women's Fall League after slipping past Paire, 6-5, in a penalty shootout. Mikky Vargas nailed the go-ahead goal in the penalty shootout, while goalie Jhaneeka Atalig made a game-winning save for the undefeated champion.

In swimming, Tsunami Saipan dominated the 2012 Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament. Rezne Wong and Kensuke Kimura topped the men's open division of the 1.5-kilometer race, posting identical times of 25:01, while Angel Marie Tan ruled the women's division with her 27:06.

In Little League, the CNMI Junior and Major All-Star teams left the island to represent the Commonwealth in the Asia Pacific Regional Tournament. The Junior All-Stars will be competing in Vietnam, while the Major All-Stars will be playing in Chinese-Taipei.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Team Pogi's Jeff Bahillo goes for a layup during their game against Marianas Water in the DLX/DL JOS caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey, right, poses with a family member at the awards podium for the Lixil Ironman 70.3 Centrair in Tokoname, Japan, last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A DYS/Bayani player is hounded by DeMolay defenders during their game in the U20 division of the Budweiser Cup last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire's Nola Hix dribbles against a Shirley's defender during their title game in the NMIFA women's league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Rachel Abrams, Reylynn Sapong, Yvonne Bennett, and Lia Rangamar pose for a group photo after the opening ceremonies of the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia, last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Shirley's FC striker goes for a penalty kick during the second half of their title game in the NMIFA women's league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a group photo before the start of last week's Flipper race at the Managaha Island.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Abrams finishes strong in Cairns

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Lia Rangamar, Reylynn Sapong, Rachel Abrams, and Yvonne Bennett pose with the CNMI flag and their bronze medals after the awards ceremony in the Oceania championships in Cairns, Australia, last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI sprinter Rachel Abrams made it to the finals of the 200m run in the last day of the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 last Friday at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia.

Abrams, who was the first CNMI runner to advance to the finals of a race in the Pacific Games last year in New Caledonia after timing in at 27.46 seconds, eclipsed her record in the Noumea after submitting 27.20 seconds in the qualifying heat for the U20 division. The 17-year-old runner was on Heat 2 and finished fourth in her group to earn a slot to the finals.

In the finale, Abrams ran faster, breaking the 27-second barrier with her 26.45 seconds, a new personal best for the Marianas High School student and less than a second behind the CNMI and Micronesian record (25.67 second) teammate Yvonne Bennett set in 2010

See STRONG on Page 26

Lee leads NMC Open winners

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Geon Ju Lee, right, accepts his United Airlines prize package after winning the Championship Flight of the 10th NMC Foundation Golf Open held last Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

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REPORTER

Geon Ju Lee topped the 10-player Championship Flight of the 10th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open held on the west course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.

Lee hit the turn in first place with a 35 and finished the back with another 35 for a 2-under par 70. It was Lee's second win this month, as he also ruled the HANMI Cup on June 3.

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Marianas Water, Brabu stay alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brabu Gualo Rai and Marianas Water remained in playoff contention after winning separate games in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Brabu beat San Roque in the first game, 69-63, to improve to a 3-3 record and tie Banahaw for third place in Bracket B. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs and KFC/Taco Bell (5-1) and the Fastbreakers (5-1)

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas Water's Joseph Galulu drives against Team Pogi defenders during their game in the DLX caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Marianas Water lost, but recovered against Mawati, 61-60.

DLX, Mobil finish season with wins

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

DLX and Mobil closed out the regular season of the 2nd Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League with separate victories last Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In the curtain raiser, DLX defeated R-Rebels, 79-65, while Mobil outlasted Star Water in the second match, 88-84.

DLX finished pool play with a 4-1 record and is tied with QQ Rent-A-Car in first place in Division A with R-Rebels and Mobil close behind with similar 3-2 cards. Ashley's came in next with a 1-4 slate, while Star Water finished in the rear, winless in five tries.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mobil's Angelo Fernando, seen here taking the ball straight to the hoop during their game against the R-Rebels, scored 18 points in their 88-84 win over Star Water in the Blue Haus caging last Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In Division B, Loving Hands Daycare (4-1) finished No. 1, followed by NVM (3-2), Saipan Hardware (3-2), Wanted Sponsor (3-2), Cargo Express (2-3) and Hip Hop Thunder (1-4).

The R-Rebels and DLX were locked after the first quarter of Thursday's opener, 16-all, before the latter managed a 30-26 cushion at halftime.

Trevor Ogumoro carried R-Rebels in the first quarter with 10 points, but was held to just one basket in the second period. DLX matched Ogumoro's two three-pointers from out of the

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